

The **signal phrase** is an essential part of the set-up for both direct quotations and paraphrased citations.

- According to legal correspondent Jim Waters (2018), the laws on gun ownership have specific and necessary limits.
- Experts in the field have stated that these limits “are often flashpoints for debate and controversy” (Waters, 2018).

Example Signal Phrases:

- Analyzing recent research, Jane Doe (YEAR) claims....
- In “Water, Water Everywhere,” Dr. Philip Rivers (2017) points out...
- Writing for *The Atlantic*, Steve Geruda (2019) argues...
- Climate Change experts suggest that...
- A recent article in *The New York Times* reports...

The signal phrase should (1) let the reader know that you are about to cite from an outside source and (2) briefly indicate the name or nature of the source.

**Conventions:**

- If you don’t mention the author’s last name in the signal phrase, you should include it in parenthesis at the end of the sentence.
- Include the year of publication immediately after the author name, whether you are naming the author in the signal phrase or in parenthesis at end of the sentence.
- For clarity, sometimes you might include the article title in parenthesis at the end of the citation instead of in the signal phrase.
- Do not repeat information. If you include the author’s name or the article title in the signal phrase, do not repeat this information in parenthesis at the end of the citation.

**Exercise:** Create an appropriate signal phrase to fill in the blank for each item. Use the source information provided here.

“How Young Is Too Young to Go to School?” | Sarah Carr | *Slate* | 2017

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in France, “Half of the country’s 96 mainland “departments”—geographic regions akin to counties or school districts—have reached the goal of enrolling 30 percent of 2-year-olds from the priority networks.”
2. \_\_\_\_\_ “In the United States, by contrast, the percentage of 2-year-olds enrolled in educationally focused preschool programs is negligible, and about a third of American 3-year-olds attend such programs (nearly 100 percent of French 3-year-olds do)” (“How Young Is Too Young to Go to School?”).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ “there’s no reason that, with a modest amount of additional resources, collaboration, and commitment, we couldn’t create more programs for our toddlers akin to those that are slowly proliferating across France” (Carr, 2017).

When quoting research sources, we want to carefully select material to include in our citations.

**Conventions for Selecting Material:**

- You can choose how much or how little to include in your quotation.
- You don't have to cite entire sentences. You can cite a single-word if that is what your paper needs.
- You can cite multiple sentences also, but there are special rules for quotations of four lines or more (that's when block quotation format is applied).
- If you change anything within the quotation, place the change in brackets. But be very sparing in your use of this strategy. The best way to go is to adjust your set-up material so that the quoted material doesn't need to be altered.
- Only use ellipsis if you remove material from the middle of a quote. When you leave off the beginning or end of a sentence that appears in your direct quotation, you do not need to indicate that with ellipsis.

**Source:** "It's Absurd to Claim That Smarter Babies Sleep Poorly at Night" by Melinda Wenner Moyer | *Slate* | 2019 (Excerpts)

A new parenting claim made the rounds on social media this week, and it was a doozy. "Smarter Babies Need Less Sleep and Wake Up Through the Night, Claim Experts," touts the headline of a piece published by the Australian website Healthy Mummy. The piece, based on a 2015 *BuzzFeed* article, has now been shared 363,000 times on social media. On Thursday, the Irish Independent jumped onboard with a similar piece titled "Why It's Actually a Good Thing if Your Baby Doesn't Sleep Through the Night."

The arguments these articles make, and the assumptions they are based on, are so badly flawed, I almost don't know where to begin.

A number of animal studies support the notion that sleep promotes memory, learning, and improved cognition, too: Animals deprived of sleep during infancy, for instance, wind up with smaller cerebral cortices as adults.

No doubt, there's an alluring message here for exhausted parents: that your suffering may ultimately produce a superior child, and since this is all seemingly beyond your control, you should surrender and go with the flow—never mind how little sleep you get.

Example citation:

- In "It's Absurd to Claim That Smarter Babies Sleep Poorly at Night," Melinda Wenner Moyer (2019) offers a correction to recent articles on the connection between infant intelligence and sleep, saying the articles are "badly flawed."

**Exercise:** For each item, select material from the provided text (above) to fill in the blank and complete the citation. Choose enough material to finish the sentence. Use only as much of the blank space as needed.

1. Moyer (2019), a science-based parenting columnist, cites studies on animal sleep which show that "\_\_\_\_\_."  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Moyer (2019) understands the appeal of the message being repeated online in the articles. She acknowledges that  
"\_\_\_\_\_"

**What needs to be *cited* vs. What needs to be *quoted***

Any time you use material from an outside source in your essay, you need to cite the source where the material came from. Always give credit to author(s) of that source. This is true if you are referencing a specific fact, statistic or finding and it is also true if you are referencing an idea, insight or concept. Always cite your sources.

Whenever you borrow language – even just a three-word turn of phrase – you need to place that language in quotation marks. *Borrowed language* must be *quoted language* when it appears in your paper.

Citing, however, does not always mean quoting. For a variety of reasons, paraphrasing is sometimes the best way to incorporate material from outside sources in your own essay.

**What does it mean to paraphrase, exactly?**

Paraphrasing means rendering someone else's ideas in your own words. This requires more than using a thesaurus though. In fact, replacing a few terms with synonyms is *not* what we want to do when we paraphrase. (This method is actually plagiarism.)

Paraphrasing requires that we extract the idea from a research source and find a new way to present it. We need to use original language – a whole new sentence.

Often, this will allow us to explain the idea in fewer words than the original text. (If there is no way to condense the idea into fewer words, we may opt to quote the original text directly.)

**Source:** "Why 1984 Isn't Banned in China" by Amy Hawkins & Jeffry Wasserstrom | *The Atlantic* | 2019

Censors have banned books simply for containing a positive or even neutral portrayal of the Dalai Lama. The government disallows the publication of any work by Liu Xiaobo, the determined critic of the Communist Party who in 2017 became the first Nobel Peace Prize winner since Nazi times to die in prison. Again, for a time last year Chinese citizens could not type "nineteen," "eighty," and "four" in sequence—but they could, and still can, buy a copy of *1984*, the most famous novel on authoritarianism ever written. Prefer Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*? They can buy that text, too, just as easily, although its title also joined the taboo list last winter.

Western commentators often give the impression that Chinese censorship is more comprehensive than it really is due, in part, to a veritable obsession with the government's handling of the so-called "three Ts" of Taiwan, Tibet, and Tiananmen. A 2013 article in *The New York Review of Books* states, for example, that "to this day Tiananmen is one of the neuralgic words forbidden—not always successfully—on China's Internet." Any book, article, or social media post that so much as mentions these words, the conventional wisdom holds, is liable to disappear.

These patterns may suggest that censors take a rather dim view of their audiences' abilities—that they believe Chinese citizens are unable to draw a connection between the political situation Orwell described and the nature of their government (unless prompted to do so by a rabble-rouser on the internet). More likely, they're motivated by elitism, or classism. Analogously, in the United States the MPAA slaps movies with an R rating if they depict nudity, but there's no warning system for museums that display nude sculptures. The assumption is not that Chinese people can't figure out the meaning of *1984*, but that the small number of people who will bother to read it won't pose much of a threat.

**Example:** A recent article in *The Atlantic* suggests that Chinese government censorship policies are shaped by a class-oriented belief that the Chinese citizens will seek out books like Orwell's *1984* will not be inspired to challenge the status quo (Hawkins & Wasserstrom, 2019).

**Note:** This citation is paraphrasing the point made in the last paragraph of the excerpt.

**Exercise:** Using the provided text (above), create one paraphrased citation. (Your response should each be one full sentence.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_