

YORKWAC Infobase

Ways to Use Sources or Incorporate Evidence

Sources are where you get the evidence (published data or expert opinion) to support the claims you make in your research paper or other writing assignment. Typical sources include periodicals, books, statistical databases, and websites.

Once you have located a source, how do you incorporate the evidence from that source into your argument? There are three basic ways:

1. *Quoting*

Quoting means using the exact words of the source. *For example:*

In the Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln begins by saying “Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

2. *Paraphrasing*

Paraphrasing means restating the evidence point-by-point in your own words. *For example:*

In the Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln begins by saying that the United States was founded 87 years earlier based on principles of freedom and universal equality.

3. *Summarizing*

Summarizing means using your own words to give a concise overview of the evidence. *For example:*

Abraham Lincoln begins the Gettysburg Address by noting how long ago the nation was founded and what its guiding principles were.

Regardless of whether you quote, paraphrase, or summarize, evidence must come from reliable *sources* and be properly *cited*.

The **YORKWAC Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

Infosheet #18, Quoting Evidence from Sources

Infosheet #19, Paraphrasing Evidence from Sources

Infosheet #20, Summarizing Evidence from Sources