**Choosing and Using Evidence**

After you have annotated your sources and landed on a thesis statement it is time to find supporting evidence. Your supporting evidence comes in the forms of direct quotes or paraphrases. As a general rule, the majority of research-based papers should be in your own words so you would normally want to paraphrase more than quote. However, for this project, you will do an equal amount of both so that you get the experience.

*What is a Direct Quote?*

* Any piece of evidence that you pull directly from your source word for word.
* Identical to the original work
* Should be used only when the original ideas are particularly well-stated and whose meaning would be lost or changed if the wording was altered
* NOT necessarily a person speaking (although it may be)
* MUST be integrated smoothly within your own sentence/language – MAY NOT stand alone as its own sentence
* MUST have an in-text citation that gives credit to the original author

*What is a Paraphrase?*

* Any piece of evidence from a source that you have put into your own words
* Used when you want the *idea* the source expressed, but not necessarily the specific language used to express it
* Usually involves taking a longer segment of the source and shortening it by putting it into your own words
* MUST have an in-text citation that gives credit to the person who originally thought of the idea

*Example of Incorrect and Correct Paraphrasing:*

Original Passage: Annie Oakley’s life spanned years of tremendous change for American women. By the time of her death in 1926 Americans were celebrating the liberated, urban-focused, modern times of the Jazz Age. Women had won the right to vote, wore less restrictive clothes, and followed a changing ideal that was loosening some of the restrictions on women’s roles and behavior that had reigned through the nineteenth century.

Incorrect Paraphrasing: Annie Oakley’s life spanned years of significant changes for American women. By the time she died in 1926, women had the vote, wore looser clothing, and embraced the freedom from restrictive 19th century roles and behaviors.

*Why is this an incorrect example?*

Correct Paraphrasing: As discussed in the biography on PBS’s American Experience web page, sharpshooter Annie Oakley lived through a period of many liberating changes for women, from the Victorian era through the first quarter of the 20th century. Examples include voting rights for women as well as the freedom to wear comfortable and practicle clothing (Annie Oakley).

*Why is this a correct example?*

**Note Cards:**

For this project you will all complete 6 note cards. Note cards will enable you to lay out all the evidence you have and see how it fits together. They also force you to choose the best and most pertinent pieces of evidence to support your thesis since you are only allowed to have one piece of evidence per note card. You should not be filling up your cards with multiple pieces of information.

You will need to find 6 total pieces of evidence – 3 in the form of direct quotes and 3 paraphrases. Your evidence should be pulled equally from all of your sources – you should not have 5 note cards from one source, 1 from another, and a 3rd source that you didn’t use at all. You will turn in your note cards along with the sources the information came from so that I can make sure you are adhering to the above rules about directly quoting and paraphrasing.

Your note cards should each follow this specific format below. No exceptions.

|  |
| --- |
| Source ID  (1,2,3/A,B,C) |
| Which Main Point does this evidence support?  Pg # \*if appropriate  Your “Direct Quote” or paraphrase goes here. You should only have one piece of evidence per note card. |

\*Page numbers are only included if you have the original page number the evidence came from. Since all of your information for this research project came from databases, you do not have original page numbers. Therefore, you should leave this area blank. During our next research project, when you are allowed to use hard copy sources, you will be expected to identify page numbers.

Some things to keep in mind as you carefully and mindfully select what evidence you will use in your paper:

* How this evidence connects to and supports your thesis statement. When I ask you, how does this connect to and support your thesis statement, you should be able to easily answer that question. If it doesn’t connect to your thesis (and therefore your purpose), it doesn’t belong in your essay – no matter how interesting it is.
* The difference between what material needs to be cited and what is considered *common knowledge*. Common knowledge is something that every reasonably educated person can be expected to know: George Washington was the first president, the State Bird of Michigan is the robin, child marriages have a negative effect on the children forced into them, etc. *There is no need to use in-text citations with this information therefore this type of information SHOULD NOT end up on your note cards*

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