

INTEGRATING SECONDARY SOURCES

Collecting the right kind of research can be difficult, but putting it into a research paper can prove even more challenging. This chart explains the four types of source integration and how they are used.

	What do you want to convey?	How can you do this?	Whose words do you use?	When is this most useful?	Include page numbers with in-text citation?
Summary	The overall conclusion of one author or article	Reduce a large text to a few sentences to show the main point	Your own words	Any source where the main arguments are the most important part	No
Synthesis	The shared conclusions of several similar studies	Combine the conclusions of several studies to show agreement	Your own words	Usually sets of similar studies obtained via database search	No
Paraphrase	A few specific points by one author	Reword a short passage to fit the flow of your paper	Your own words	Focused ideas or specifics from a larger source	Yes
Quotation	A few specific words or sentences by one author	Copy a small section of the source text, word for word	The author's original words	Sources where the specific phrasing will be analyzed or is particularly eloquent	Yes

Remember: all of these methods always require citation in one of the various styles, such as APA, MLA, or Chicago-Turabian. Never use a source's ideas or statistics without giving proper credit.