

Citing Research: Practice

I created this assignment to give my struggling freshmen writers some scaffolded practice. This assignment focuses on directly quoting and paraphrasing source material. What follows is an explanation for why I have students complete each task in the directions.

Directions: *Follow these steps for each of the following direct quotes.*

1. Draw a **box** around the signal phrase.

Asking students to identify the signal phrase helps them to recognize what type of wording they should use when introducing a direct quote.

2. Lightly color the credibility of the source a shade of **blue** or **green**.

Students need to see examples of how writers can state an author's credibility. Asking them to shade the credibility draws their attention to it and also makes a brain-based connection due to the color-coding aspect of the task.

3. Lightly color the signal phrase verb a shade of **red**, **pink**, or **orange**.

Students often fall into the "said" trap. They have difficulty thinking of strong signal phrase verbs. I like to draw my students' attention to different examples of verbs they can use to introduce a direct quote by having them shade it a bold color.

4. Underline the "quotation."

Even though it's called a direct quotation, struggling writers often forget what that means when they don't have an example in front of them. Asking students to underline the direct quote helps them to visually see a direct quote's components: signal phrase, quotation, citation.

5. Draw a **circle** around the in-text citation.

In-text citations are required for every cited fact. Identifying them helps students to remember to include them in their own writing.

6. Answer the question about the source.

Each question prompts students to think about the content of the internal citations. In doing so, it will help them think about how to correctly structure their own in-text citations. Students need to know what to do when page numbers are not available and when an author is not stated.

7. Paraphrase the quote in your own words, and don't forget to include an in-text citation.

Asking students to paraphrase a direct quote gives them more practice, helps them to remember to include citations with ideas that are not directly quoted, and also helps them truly understand that a direct quote can be changed to a paraphrased citation – and vice versa.

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1. Draw a **box** around the signal phrase.
2. Lightly color the credibility of the source a shade of **blue** or **green**.
3. Lightly color the signal phrase verb a shade of **red**, **pink**, or **orange**.
4. Underline the "quotation."
5. Draw a **circle** around the in-text citation.
6. Answer the question about the source.
7. Paraphrase the quote in your own words, and don't forget to include an in-text citation.

1. Jack, one of the head boys stranded on the island in *Lord of the Flies*, reasons, "The thing is – fear can't hurt you any more than a dream" (Golding 71).

What do we know about the source based on the in-text citation? (Circle 2)

- a. There is no author, so the title of the article is in the citation.
- b. The author is an organization or company.
- c. The source has no page numbers.
- d. The source has page numbers.
- e. The author is a person.

★ Paraphrase: _____

2. Amit Erkin, a professor of psychiatry at Stanford University, reports, "Avoidance makes phobias worse. If you don't interact with the thing that scares you, the brain will never accept that it's not harmful, and scary fantasies can become more exaggerated" (qtd. in Hutson 17).

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7. Paraphrase the quote in your own words, and don't forget to include an in-text citation.

3. Roy E. Disney, Walt Disney's nephew who is credited with reviving animated film, once advised, "It's not hard to make decisions once you know what your values are" (*Goodreads*).

What do we know about the source based on the in-text citation? (Circle 2.)

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- b. The author is an organization or company.
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4. "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent," lectures Eleanor Roosevelt, the longest serving First Lady of the United States ("Exploring the Origins").

What do we know about the source based on the in-text citation? (Circle 2.)

- a. There is no author, so the title of the article is in the citation.
- b. The author is an organization or company.
- c. The source has no page numbers.
- d. The source has page numbers.
- e. The author is a person.

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5. "A true hero isn't measured by the size of his strength, but by the strength of his heart," advises Hercules, a famous Greek demi-god (qtd. in McDermott).

What do we know about the source based on the in-text citation? (Circle 2)

- a. The writer found the quote from a source that has no page numbers.
- b. The author is an organization or company.
- c. The source is not very credible.
- d. The source has page numbers.
- e. The statement is an indirect quote.

★ Paraphrase: _____
