GUIDE TO INTEGRATING CITED INFORMATION

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN QUOTATIONS, SUMMARIES, AND PARAPHRASES

ORIGINAL MATERIAL:

"The Net's interactivity gives us powerful new tools for finding information, expressing ourselves, and conversing with others. It also turns us into lab rats constantly pressing levers to get tiny pellets of social or intellectual nourishment" (Carr 114).

1. QUOTING

- How to do it: Use the exact words from the source and enclose them in quotation marks.
  - Example: Carr argues that "the Net's interactivity gives us powerful new tools for finding information, expressing ourselves, and conversing with others" (114).
- When to use it: When the author's original wording is particularly impactful, insightful, or unique.

2. PARAPHRASING

- How to do it: Restate the author's ideas in your own words while maintaining the original meaning.
  - Example: Carr suggests that the interactive nature of the internet, while providing valuable tools for communication and information gathering, can also lead to a constant pursuit of fleeting rewards (114).
- When to use it: When you want to explain the author's ideas in a way that fits the flow of your own writing.

3. SUMMARIZING

- How to do it: Condense the main points of a longer passage into a shorter overview in your own words.
  - Example: In *The Shallows*, Carr contends that the internet's interactive features, while beneficial, can also train our brains to seek out instant gratification (114).
- When to use it: When you want to provide a brief overview of the author's main points without going into detail.

INTEGRATING QUOTATIONS

Quotations are like spices in your writing – use them wisely to add flavor and support your ideas, but don't overdo it! Here's how to seamlessly weave quotes into your body paragraphs.

1. INTRODUCE YOUR QUOTE:

Signal phrases: Before dropping in a quote, introduce it with a signal phrase that identifies the speaker or source.

- Examples: "According to Dr. Smith...", "In her book, Jane Doe argues...", "As the study reveals..."

Contextualize: Briefly explain the quote's relevance to your point. What is the speaker's background? Why should we care what they have to say?

2. QUOTE WITH CARE:

Accuracy: Copy the quote exactly as it appears in the original source, including punctuation and capitalization.

Relevance: Choose quotes that directly support your argument and provide evidence for your claims. Don't just throw in random quotes!

Brevity: Keep your quotes concise. A few powerful words or a short sentence are usually more effective than a long, rambling passage.

3. BLEND IT IN:

Embed quotes: Weave short quotes directly into your own sentences.
- Blended: According to Carr, the internet "turns us into lab rats constantly pressing levers for social or intellectual rewards," (114) highlighting the addictive nature of its interactivity.
- Not Blended: Carr says the internet "also turns us into lab rats constantly pressing levers to get tiny pellets of social or intellectual nourishment" (114).

Use brackets: Use brackets [ ] to add words or change verb tenses to make the quote fit grammatically into your sentence.
- Quote with Brackets: Carr warns that "[the Net's interactivity] also turns us into lab rats constantly pressing levers to get tiny pellets of social or intellectual nourishment" (114).
  - Adding "the Net's interactivity" in brackets replaces the original "It" and allows provides the reader with the antecedent that "it" refers to.

Use ellipses: Use ellipses (...) to indicate that you have omitted words from the original quote.
- **Accuracy:** When using ellipses, it's crucial to ensure that you don't alter the original meaning of the quote.

- **Clarity:** Ellipses should help to clarify the quote and make it more concise, not create confusion.

- **Location:** Use ellipses only for omissions in the middle of quotes, not at the beginning or ending.

- **Overuse:** Don't overuse ellipses. If you find yourself omitting large portions of the quote, it might be better to paraphrase or summarize instead.

- **Example:** Carr warns that the internet "turns us into lab rats constantly pressing levers... for social or intellectual nourishment" (114).

4. EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE:

Analysis: Don't just drop a quote and run! Explain *why* it's important and how it connects to your main point.

- Example: This shift in our cognitive habits, Carr suggests, has profound implications for our ability to read deeply, think critically, and cultivate a rich inner life (114). When dealing with internet use, then, we must consider not only the benefits but also the potential harm that it brings. Setting up reasonable limits to how and when those most vulnerable to this adverse effects, such as children, seems a logical step.

5. CITE YOUR SOURCES:

Give credit: Always cite your sources using the appropriate citation style (MLA). This shows academic honesty and helps readers find the original source.

EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH:

This example uses several techniques for integrating material, providing citations for each.

In his book *The Shallows*, Nicholas Carr explores the cognitive effects of internet use. He argues that the internet's "interactivity gives us powerful new tools for finding information, expressing ourselves, and conversing with others" (114). However, he cautions that this same interactivity can also be detrimental to our brains. Carr contends that the constant stimulation and instant gratification offered by the internet can rewire our neural pathways, making it difficult to sustain focus and engage in deep thought (114). He warns that "[the Net] turns us into lab rats constantly pressing levers to get tiny pellets of social or intellectual nourishment" (114). In other words, the internet can train our brains to seek out quick rewards rather than engage in the sustained effort required for complex thinking and problem-solving. This shift in our cognitive habits, Carr suggests, has profound implications for our ability to read deeply, think critically, and cultivate a rich inner life (114). When dealing with internet use, then, we must consider not only the benefits but also the potential harm that it brings. Setting up reasonable limits to how and when those most vulnerable to this adverse effects, such as children, seems a logical step.

REMEMBER:

- Quotations should support your ideas, not replace them.
- Use a variety of quotes and sources to strengthen your argument.
- Avoid starting or ending a paragraph with a quote.
- Practice integrating quotes smoothly and thoughtfully.
- With practice, you'll become a pro at using quotations effectively in your essays!

Work Cited

Carr, Nicholas. *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains.* Norton, 2011.