

# SOURCE ATTRIBUTION IN ACADEMIC WRITING



In academic writing it's important to always be very clear about where the information you are using comes from. There are multiple ways to do this (and you can use any or all of them), but each time you include a quote, paraphrase, or summarize a source, you need to include attribution. Remember: your goal is always clarity. A reader should be able to tell not only which ideas are your and which are someone else's, but also where those ideas came from.

## Attributing an idea in your paper using the title and the author

*Example:*

In her article, "Why Women Smile," Amy Cunningham claims that women have been socialized from an early age to smile in order to make the people around them feel more comfortable.

*Template:*

In \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
author's pronoun      type of source      title of source  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_.  
name of author      reporting verb      what the source says about your topic

## Quoting a source directly in your paper and attributing that quote using the title and the author

*Example:*

In her article, "Why Women Smile," Amy Cunningham claims that "too many of us smile in lieu of showing what's really on our minds" because women have been socialized to make others feel more comfortable.

*Template:*

In \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
author's pronoun      type of source      title of article  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_,  
name of author      reporting verb      direct quote from the source in quotation marks      put the quote in context

## Attributing an idea in your paper without including the title or author directly

*Example:*

Women and girls are socialized from an early age to smile in order to make people around them feel more comfortable (Cunningham).

*Template:*

\_\_\_\_\_. (\_\_\_\_\_.)  
the idea you want to express (summary or paraphrase)      author's last name

**REPORTING VERBS:** *These verbs help you tell your reader how an author is approaching a topic. Make sure whichever one you use is accurately representing the author's perspective whether it's objective or subjective.*

argues	believes	expresses	states	acknowledges	deals with	illustrates	points out	suggests
addresses	challenges	decides	implies	proposes	adds	charges	declares	indicates
questions	thinks	advises	defines	insists	realizes	allows	claims	describes
interprets	reasons	utilizes	analyzes	comments	discusses	introduces	remarks	warns
compares	echoes	replies	wonders	asks	concedes	emphasizes	maintains	reports
writes	asserts	concludes	exclaims	mentions	responds	assumes	considers	finds
notes	reveals	assures	contends	grants	observes	shows	explains	speculates