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 _________    _______________, ________________________________________________, name of author _______________  _____________ that ___________________________________.

name of author _______________  _____________ that _______________  _____________ declaration...

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 _________    _______________, ________________________________________________, name of author _______________  _____________ that _______________  _____________, _________________.

name of author _______________  _____________ that _______________  _____________, _________________.

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) (______________).

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  defines  insists  realizes  allows  claims  describes
interprets  reasons  utilizes  comments  discusses  introduces  remarks  warns
compares  echoes  analyzes  asks  concedes  emphasizes  maintains  reports
writes  asserts  concludes  exclaims  mentions  responds  assumes  considers  finds
notes  reveals  assures  contends  grants  observes  shows  explains  speculates