Integrating Sources into Writing

Why is it important to signal direct quotations and paraphrases in your writing?
By letting readers know a quotation or paraphrase is coming, you provide a smooth transition between your own ideas and the evidence used to explore your ideas. One of the best ways to let readers know more about your source is to use a "signal phrase." Signal phrases help readers "move from your own words to the words of a source without feeling a jolt" (Hacker 406). Ultimately, a writer uses signal phrases to avoid dropped quotations.

> **Here is an example of a dropped quotation (<u>what you do NOT want to do</u>):**
> Did you know that there are seven steps to tasting chocolate? "Look: note the color and sheen (shininess is a sign of good tempering)" ("Chocolate").

> **Here is the same example with a signal phrase (<u>which you DO want to use</u>):**
> Did you know that there are seven steps to tasting chocolate? According to Dorrie Greenspan, author of *Baking: From My Home to Yours*, when you taste chocolate the first step is to "look: note the color and sheen (shininess is a sign of good tempering)" ("Chocolate").

Notice the difference between the two examples? Signal phrases allow the reader to transition from the writer's thoughts to a source's thoughts in a seamless way.

> **Examples of Signal Phrases**
> In the words of noted psychologist Carl Jung, "…
> As cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead noted, "…
> Kanye West, Grammy award-winning songwriter and rapper, says, "…
> "…," writes essayist Z.Z. Packer, "…"
> "…" claims reality-TV star Hulk Hogan.
> Authors Amy Tan and Tobias Wolfe offer two unique perspectives on growing up:
> "…" (Hacker 408).

You can also create your own signal phrases by pulling from the following verbs (Hacker 408) :

> **Verbs in Signal Phrases**
>
> | | | |
> |---|---|---|
> | Acknowledges | Contends | Observes |
> | Adds | Declares | Points out |
> | Admits | Denies | Reasons |
> | Agrees | Disputes | Refutes |
> | Argues | Emphasizes | Rejects |
> | Asserts | Endorses | Reports |
> | Believes | Grants | Responds |
> | Claims | Illustrates | Suggests |
> | Comments | Implies | Thinks |
> | Compares | Insists | Writes |
> | Confirms | Notes | |

Work Cited
Hacker, Diana. *Instructor's Edition: Rules for Writers.* 5th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004.

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