**Incorporating the source into your essay.**

Let’s say that I want to incorporate the following quote from the “*how stuff works.com*” website.

The article is titled “What if you drink salt water?” by Vicki M. Guiggo (Feb. 2012), and the quote you want to use is: “our bodies depend on both water and salt to function” from the following paragraph:

Saltwater doesn't sound as deadly as, say, taking your chances on puffer fish sushi. *After all, our bodies depend on both water and salt to function*. Water, the universal solvent for proteins and the like, is essential for chemical reactions that help us metabolize food, use our muscles, pump our [blood](http://science.howstuffworks.com/life/human-biology/blood.htm) and even think. Our cells also depend on salt, which exists as sodium and chloride ions in our extracellular fluids, for those same chemical reactions. So, what's the problem? If anything, drinking saltwater sounds efficient, not deadly.

To correctly cite your source in your essay you need two parts from the entire source – the Author and the date written like this (Author, Date) in your paragraph. So with the above example it would look something like (Guiggo, 2012). This tells the reader that you are using someone else’s information from an article you read somewhere else. This also tells the reader that if they are interested in reading from the original source, they could find that information in the “Resources” section at the end of your essay – which I’ll show you how to do later.

There are three basic ways to incorporate the quote you want to use into your essay. All three ways must somehow address the author of the source and the date it was written.

**Sample 1: Direct quote**

*Salt water is not all that bad, in fact* ***“our bodies depend on both water and salt to function” (Guiggo, 2012).*** *(Emphasis added)*

Do you see how we put quotations around the sentence that we wanted to use? We then followed up with the parentheses with the author and year.

**Sample 2: Name dropping**

*Salt water is not all that bad, in fact,* ***according to Vicki Guiggo from “how stuff works”, a discovery channel website based on science, “our bodies depend on both water and salt to function” (2012).*** *(Emphasis added)*

Notice in this example, I build up credibility by mentioning either the occupation or organization that Vicki represents, then I quote her and end with the date in parentheses like this… (2012).

**Sample 3: Paraphrasing**

*Salt water is not all that bad, in fact, our bodies need salt and water in order to live (Guiggo, 2012).*

Notice in this example, I paraphrased what Vicki Guiggo said in her article and gave her credit for having done so.

These are the three basic ways to quote and cite your source in your essay.

At the end of your essay, you want to give the reader access to the sources you used in your essay – so that if they wanted to read more, they could. There are four basic parts of information that the reader needs to fully access the article or book that you used; namely, the author’s name, the date it was written, the title of the book or article and the source of the book or article (aka, the publisher or magazine).

Depending on the writing style, there are different ways to arrange that information. For now, we want to keep it simple – namely in the order I prescribed: Name, date, title, source.

So for the aforementioned article from “how stuff works.com” titled “What if you drink salt water?” by Vicki M. Guiggo that was written Feb. 2012, I would place this information under the References section (a section in your essay that is dedicated to the “works cited”) and write it like so:

**References**

Guiggio, Vicki M. (February 2012), “*What if you drink salt water*”, [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)

Technically, there is additional information that you will need to fully quote your source at the end, such as page number, when you last looked at the website, etc. but for an eighth grade level, we’ll consider it finished. Here’s a table that will help you identify the information found in different sources:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Source** | **Author** | **Date** | **Title of the Article** | **Source** | **Additional Source Info** |
|  | This is the name of the person who wrote the article or book etc. | This is the month of the edition, the copywriter date of a book, or date the article was written | This is the headline of an article, or the title of the book. | This is the name of the magazine, the publisher of the book, or the home page of a credible website. | This is additional information for anyone else who is looking up your source. |
| **Article in a magazine** | Fox, Cynthia | November 2005 | “*Can stem cells save dying hearts?*” | Discover | Get the pages you got the info from. |
| **Book** | Cocroft II, Clarence | 2009 | “*Forensic Science*” | Prentice Hall | Get the chapter heading, & pages. |
| **Website** | Watson, Stephanie  Freudenrich, Craig | November 11, 2004 | “*How stem cells work*” | [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com) | <http://full address.com> + date you last looked at it. |

**Assignment**

The practice is to get you used to using and correctly citing sources into your essay, therefore, you are a reporter for “Science Daily” magazine, which is a prominent student based science news source for middle school aged students.

Your job is to write about a recent “scientific discovery” or other scientific current event from sometime this past year. Your job is to quote 3 different sources based on that same event and put it to your own words. I want you to utilize all three sampled approaches; (i.e. the direct quote, the name drop and the paraphrase approach), then cite it properly in your essay and in the References section. Provide a copy of your References, and either underline or highlight the sentences you used in your citation. This assignment will be due February 6th.

**Format**

The format is as follows: 12 point font, Times New Roman, and double spaced, about a page and a half of writing. Diagrams, artwork and other forms of media are encouraged. (In other words, make it look good – and have fun with it)

**Rubric**

You will be graded on the following criteria: format, proper citation both in the essay and in the references section, and finally, basic grammar & voice (meaning – don’t write like you’re talking to a best friend).

**Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| **On Time** | Paper was turned in on time. | Paper was 1 day late | Paper was 2 days late | Paper was more than 2 days late |
| **Format** | 12 point font  Times New Roman  Double Spaced  Page & a half | 3 out of 4  Format options used | 2 out of 4  Format options used | 1 out of 4  Format options used |
| **In Text Essay Citation**  **Author Intro** | All three styles of in text citations used  correctly | 2 out of three styles of in text citations used correctly | 1 out of three styles of in text citations used correctly | None of the three styles of in text citations are used correctly |
| **In Text Essay Citation Technical** | Quotation Marks & Author Date in parentheses are correct | Quotation Marks & Author Date in parentheses are mostly correct | Writer is having some difficulty understanding how to use Quotation Marks & or setting up the Author Date in parentheses correctly | Writer is having difficulty understanding how to use quotation marks, and or setting up the author, date in parentheses correctly |
| **References Citation** | Author, Date, Title & Source are set up correctly. | Author, Date, Title & Source are mostly set up correctly. | Writer is having *some* difficulty understanding the reference set up of the Author, Date, Title & Source. | Writer is having difficulty understanding the reference set up of the Author, Date, Title & Source. |
| **Basic Grammar** | Writer may exhibit a few mistakes | Writer may exhibit a little more mistakes, spelling errors etc. | Writer has some difficulty with grammar | Writer does not have a clear understanding of grammar usage |
| **Voice** | Writing is formal like a reporter.  (No personal pronouns like “I” and “me”) | Writing is somewhat formal – with a few segments of informal voice  (Some personal pronouns like “I” and “me” are used) | Writing is more informal  (The use of personal pronouns like “I” and “me” are more prevalent) | Writing is very informal.  (The use of personal pronouns like “I” and “me” are very prevalent) |

**Informal v. Formal**

“I observed” vs. “After observing” or “what we noticed”.

“So having it at that”

**Avoid the Obvi or Journal Style Statements**

“First I’m going to do my experiment and then I’m going to collect my data.”

“What I already know about this experiment from prior research is how to carry out the experiment and the materials needed for it.”

“I then learned some definitions of new words.”

“First I will choose an independent variable”

“I have now done the experiment and have recorded my data”

“I used a link … and just started searching up things that sounded like good keywords.”

“An experiment idea came up, and it was a pretty open one, so I could twist it up and make it mine”

“I then started thinking about my background knowledge”

“I took a long look at my data and came up with a pretty good conclusion”