Using Sources in Academic Writing

ANU Library Academic Skills

The Australian National University acknowledges, celebrates and pays our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region and to all First Nations Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

Discuss in your table group

Introduce yourself

Who is your most trusted news source?

Best source for finding recipes?

Best source for finding out when assignments are due?

Best source for planning weekend?

Other O-Week sessions

Finding sources for your assignments
Reading and note-taking

↓

Using sources in academic writing

↓

Writing for University / Science Report Writing

Referencing and Academic Integrity

Compare the pair....

I think that mobile phones have a negative effect on health. Mobile phones emit radiation, and we all know that radiation causes cancer. Also, children who live near high-tension wires often die of cancer, even though the wires are several hundred metres away. When you use a mobile phone, you put it right next to your head, so the radiation is more concentrated.

Scientists have proved that radiation causes birth defects in chickens and reduced production of milk in cows. Also, many humans who develop brain cancers have used mobile phones.

Therefore, I think the evidence shows that mobile phones have a negative effect on people's health.

Brick, J., Herke, M., & Wong, D. (2020). *Academic culture : A student's guide to studying at university*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

TEXT 17

There is some evidence to suggest that the use of mobile phones may have a negative effect on health. Mild (1998) studied radiation risk in 11,000 mobile phone users and found that headaches and fatigue were reported more often by people who made longer phone calls. Braune (1998) reported a rise in blood pressure in a group of 10 mobile phone users. Animal studies on the effects of electromagnetic radiation have suggested that exposure to high levels of radiation may be associated with birth deformities in pigs (Smith, 1999).
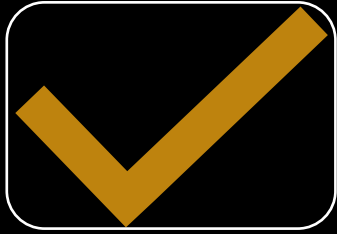
However, studies of the effects of radiation are difficult to interpret because of the effects of background rates of disease. For example, as Foster and Moulder (2000) point out, every year brain cancer affects approximately 6 people per 100,000 in the US regardless of exposure to mobile phones. Studies need to be carefully designed to distinguish between background rates of the disease and elevated occurrence related to the use of mobile phones.

More studies need to be carried out before the negative effects of mobile phone use on health can be confirmed.

Brick, J., Herke, M., & Wong, D. (2020). *Academic culture : A student's guide to studying at university*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

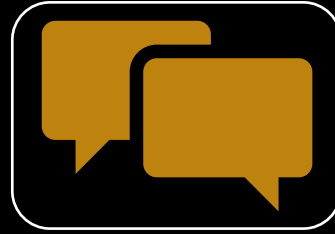# Why use sources in academic writing?
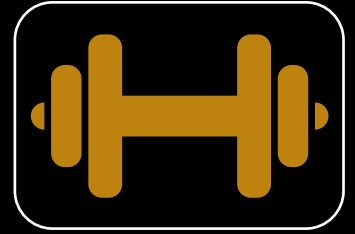
Essential requirement at ANU

Audience can follow up on information

Distinguishes your ideas from others'

Positions your work in a scholarly community

Strengthens your argument

Example

Shakespeare's work has continued to be adapted to new art forms in the centuries following his death. For example, his plays have been adapted to film since the beginning of the medium (Rothwell, 2004). Among the very first actors to perform Shakespeare on film were Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree and Sarah Bernhardt, playing the title roles in 1899's *King John* and 1900's *Hamlet* respectively (IMDb, 2023). The silent era was prodigious in the number of Shakespeare adaptations made, with an estimate 400 silent Shakespeare films produced (Jackson, 2000, p. 2). Lisa S. Starks (2002, p. 184) notes that "To be taken seriously as art, motion pictures needed to be associated with the stage. Shakespeare thus became the primary vehicle through which film could legitimate itself". Whilst these silent films did not preserve Shakespeare's play texts, sound films … etc.

These sources also appear in the reference list/bibliography

Internet Movie Database. "William Shakespeare." *Internet Movie Database*, 2023, https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000636/?ref_=nmawd_ov

Jackson, Russell. "Introduction: Shakespeare, films and the marketplace." *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare on Film,* edited by Russell Jackson, Cambridge University Press, 2000, pp. 1–12.
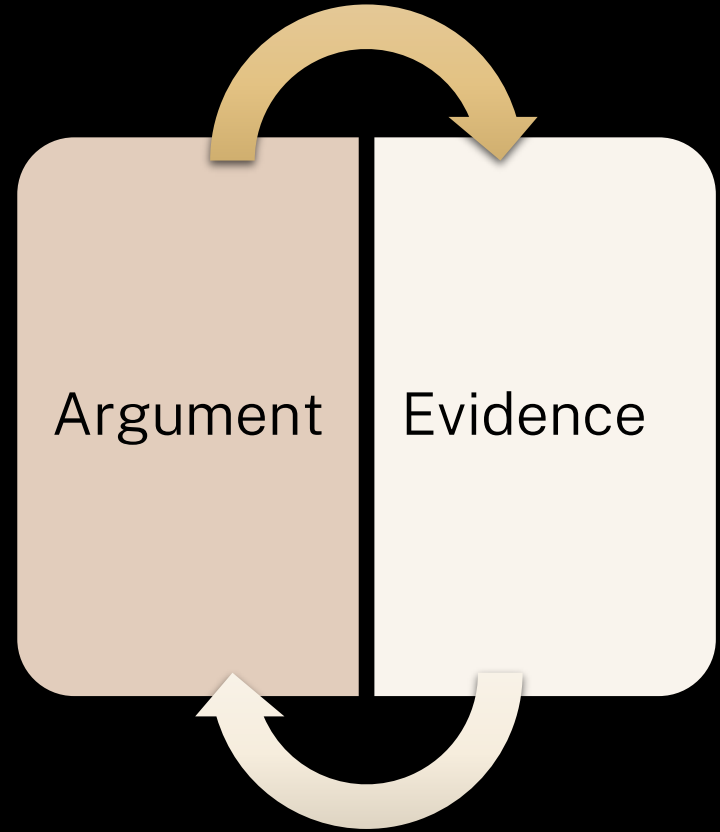
Rothwell, Kenneth S. *A History of Shakespeare on Screen: A Century of Film and Television*, 2nd edn. Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Starks, Lisa S. "Remember me: Psychoanalysis, cinema and the crisis of modernity." *Shakespeare Quarterly,* vol. 53, no. 2, 2002, pp. 181–200.

Academic sources help:

- Support claims with evidence

- Develop a persuasive and reasoned argument

- Argue from a position of authority

Argument Evidence

Tackling the question

Examine the impact of social media on identity development in young people. In your analysis, consider the opportunities and challenges presented by social media platforms, the role of self-presentation and identity construction, and the influence on social connectedness and social support networks.

What types of supporting information could be incorporated from peer-reviewed, quality literature?

Supporting information

- Case studies
- Survey findings
- Interview findings
- Facts
- Illustrative examples
- Statistics
- Evidence-based results
- Expert opinions
- Other types of qualitative and quantitative data

Ways to incorporate sources into your writing

Quote
- Copy others' words exactly
- Use sparingly when you want to highlight a key idea or key researcher/scholar

Paraphrase
- Explain someone's idea in detail using your own words
- Use when you need to provide specific detail/evidence of an author's argument

Summarise
- Succinctly explain someone's argument using your own words
- Use to capture the essence of an argument by so focusing on the main ideas only

Synthesize
- Combine multiple sources that have a similar argument
- Use to summarise multiples sources or to strengthen your argument

Quoting

Quotations must:

- match the original exactly
- be presented in quotation marks (long quotes might need indenting – see your referencing style)
- include a reference

Do not over-quote!

A sample quote

Introductory text

Quotation marks

Research has shown that it is possible to "avoid processor idle time by allowing the processors to continue to make progress even if not all progress made by other processors has been communicated to them" (Avron, Druinsky & Gupta, 2015, p. 1).

Citation that includes the authors, year and page

Paraphrase vs Summary

Paraphrase

- Usually one idea from the text
- Usually around the same length as the original
- Uses some of the important terminology, but wording and order are changed.

Summary

- Usually taken from a much longer piece of text
- Much shorter than the original text
- Covers the main point of what the original author is saying / arguing

- Both require rewriting someone else's idea(s) in your own words.

- Paraphrasing is harder to do correctly!

A sample summary
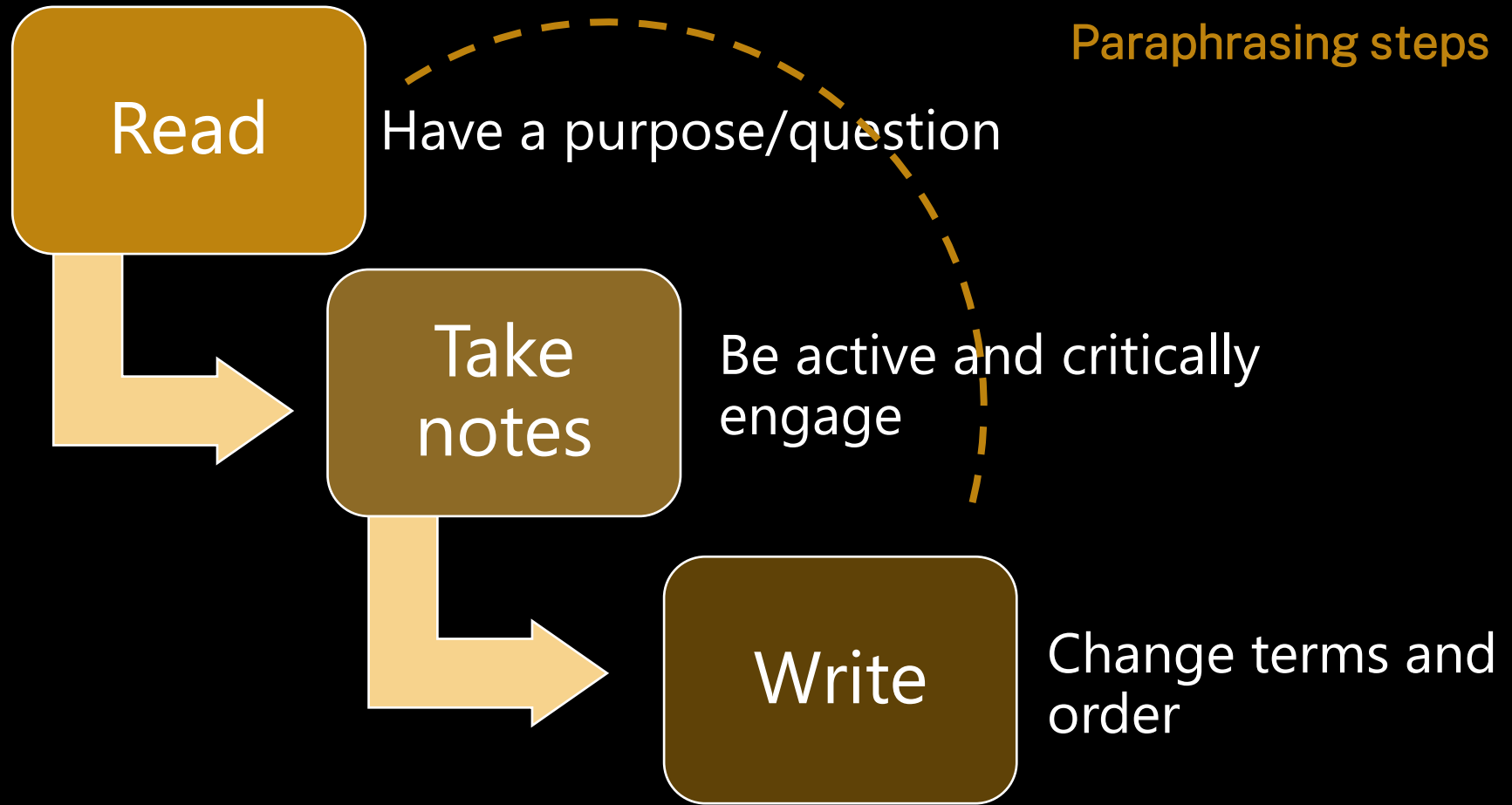
Summary of the author's main argument

Whilst asynchronous methods have been researched and compared for 50 years, there remains limited understanding of how to avoid processor idle time (Avron, Druinsky & Gupta, 2015).

Citation that includes the author and year

Read

Have a purpose/question

Take notes

Be active and critically engage

Write

Change terms and order

Original text	Notes	Paraphrased sentence
"In the case of public BT, transactions may appear private because they are not directly tied to a user identity. However, they are recorded in a public ledger. Thus, transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address. A major contribution of BT is the degree of transparency and decentralization that it provides along with an adequate level of security and privacy that was previously deemed impossible" (Hasanover et al., 2019, p. 25)	• BT provides transparency and decentralization • BT transactions not directly linked to user but are kept in a public ledger • Patterns in user transactions can be detected and this can link to a particular user • BT appears secure but no solution is perfect	According to Hasanover et al. (2019, p. 25) whilst BT technologies promise privacy and security, it is possible to trace a user by observing the pattern of transactions they make.

Rank the paraphrases

"The repute of cinema art and of the film industry can be enhanced by their capacity to incorporate Shakespeare; the institution of Shakespeare itself benefits from that transaction by a confirmation of its persistent universality" (Holderness 1994, p. 206)

Cinema and the film industry's repute are enhanced by their capacity to incorporate Shakespeare, while Shakespeare benefits from their transaction because his universality is confirmed.

Rank the paraphrases

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"The repute of cinema art and of the film industry can be enhanced by their capacity to incorporate Shakespeare; the institution of Shakespeare itself benefits from that transaction by a confirmation of its persistent universality" (Holderness 1994, p. 206)

The film industry's ability to incorporate Shakespeare strengthens its cultural status, and through this affirmation of his universality Shakespeare also benefits from this transaction (Holderness 1994, p. 206)

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"The repute of cinema art and of the film industry can be enhanced by their capacity to incorporate Shakespeare; the institution of Shakespeare itself benefits from that transaction by a confirmation of its persistent universality" (Holderness 1994, p. 206)

The relationship between film and Shakespeare is mutually beneficial: cinema's cultural cachet is strengthened through adapting Shakespeare, and film adaptations reinforce Shakespeare's universality (Holderness 1994, p. 206)

Turnitin

Shows the matching text in the original source

Click here to swap views between originality report and markers comments
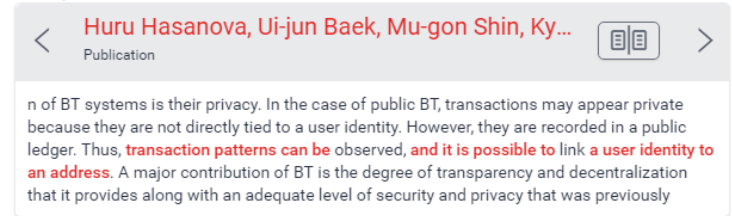
Overall similarity percentage. It is meaningless by itself – you need to check each match

Colour-coded detail about sources that match

Match Overview

34%

Match 2 of 4

1 Huru Hasanova, Ui-jun ...
   Publication   34%

Bitcoin and blockchain security and privacy

Huru Hasanova, Ui-jun Baek, Mu-gon Shin, Ky...
Publication

transactions may appear private because they are not directly tied to a user identity. However, they are recorded in a public ledger. Thus, transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address. A major contribution of BT is the degree of transparency and decentralization that it provides along with an adequate level of security and privacy that was previously deemed impossible. However, n

BT systems have some major privacy limitations because transaction patterns can be observed. This will link a user identity to an address (Hasanova et al. 2019).

Hasanover et al. (2019, p. 25) argue that although BT transactions appear private, "transaction patterns can be seen, and it is possible to match a user identity to an address".

feedback studio

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Huru Hasanova, Ui-jun Baek, Mu-gon Shin, Ky...
Publication

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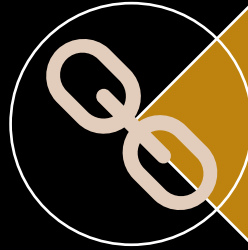
Not the same as the original (quote)!

According to Hasanover et al. (2019, p. 25) whilst BT technologies promise privacy and security, it is possible to trace a user by observing the pattern of transactions they make.

Correctly paraphrased and referenced ☺

Synthesis

Combine multiple sources to develop and strengthen your argument(s)

Demonstrate that you have read widely on the topic

Use and cite multiple sources

A sample synthesis

A large body of literature by economists and behavioural scientists has documented cross-sectional evidence for an approximately U-shaped path of happiness and well-being over the majority1 of the human lifespan (Warr, 1992; Clark & Oswald, 1994).

Citation that includes respective authors and years

Blockchain technology offers opportunities for increasing security and privacy on the internet but there are some serious limitations. Blockchain technology has opened up a potential way of conducting transactions where less personal information needs to be shared (Bauerle nd). Researchers such as Zyskind, Nathan and Pentland (2015) suggest that by removing third parties from the transaction, blockchain provides an opportunity for users to have better control and ownership over their own data. However, critics caution that there are some serious challenges in terms of accountability when machines control transactions (Hutton 2017). Moreover, there are a number of ways in which the security of blockchain transactions can be compromised such as code-based attacks, double spending and dust attacks (Bradbury 2013). Hasanover et al. (2019, p. 25), point out "transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address". Additionally, Bassina and Kasra (2017) highlight a key flaw in the security blockchain technology where privacy keys can be lost, just like real currency. It is early days but analysis so far is indicating that there may be a number of issues that need to be considered before there is wider adoption of blockchain technology.

Topic sentence

Paraphrase

Summary

Summary

Quote

Paraphrase

Concluding sentence

Blockchain technology offers opportunities for increasing security and privacy on the internet but there are some serious limitations. Blockchain technology has opened up a potential way of conducting transactions where less personal information needs to be shared (Bauerle nd). Researchers such as Zyskind, Nathan and Pentland (2015) suggest that by removing third parties from the transaction, blockchain provides an opportunity for users to have better control and ownership over their own data. However, critics caution that there are some serious challenges in terms of accountability when machines control transactions (Hutton 2017). Moreover, there are a number of ways in which the security of blockchain transactions can be compromised such as code-based attacks, double spending and dust attacks (Bradbury 2013). Hasanover et al. (2019, p. 25), point out "transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address". Additionally, Bassina and Kasra (2017) highlight a key flaw in the security blockchain technology where privacy keys can be lost, just like real currency. It is early days but analysis so far is indicating that there may be a number of issues that need to be considered before there is wider adoption of blockchain technology.

Review

Using sources requires you to appropriately acknowledge your source by inserting a reference every time you

- Quote

- Summarise

- Paraphrase

- Synthesise

- Use someone else's material

- (e.g., ideas, facts, statistics, images)

and to incorporate sources accurately.

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