

## Using Research

After taking notes on research and collecting information, utilize the research with a balance of summarizing, quoting and paraphrasing. All of these ways of using research must be cited in MLA style with a parenthetical citation at the end of the summary, paraphrase or quotation.

- Direct Quoting – word for word “copying” of the original author’s writing or speaking (use briefly in writing)
- Quoting a Signal Phrase – an original short phrase incorporated into a sentence written by the writer. The phrase chosen should be something that stands out and is hard to write in different words
- Paraphrasing – rewriting an author’s quotations in the writer’s own words
- Summarizing – writing the main points of a source into a writer’s own words (only the main points)

### Example

Here’s a paragraph of research you found on ways to find a good career:

*Focus on you: what makes you feel good about yourself, what you enjoy doing, and what you do well. The goal is to make the focus on yourself become a habit. This is a more honest, realistic, and authentic way to think about your future career. It's more useful than worrying about which fields are "hot" or what your parents think you should do. How helpful is it to learn that nursing is a field that will continue to grow, if you get squeamish at the sight of blood? Even if a particular career field is "hot" today, by the time you are trained to enter the field, the job market may have changed dramatically, and that job may no longer be in demand.*

Direct Quoting Example: “How helpful is it to learn that nursing is a field that will continue to grow, if you get squeamish at the site of blood” (Noland)?

Quoting a Signal Phrase Example: It is helpful when trying to decide what career to choose to “focus on yourself” and what you like to do instead of just looking at lists of the top jobs (Noland).

Paraphrasing: Students trying to figure out what career to choose should focus on what they are interested in and enjoy. They should focus on themselves and not worry about what adults in their lives think they should do or what the best fields are. They should try very hard to not pick a job that’s popular because it might change and not be popular by the time they are trained to do the job (Noland).

Summarizing: When choosing a career focus on your own interests instead of what someone else thinks (Noland).

### Source:

Noland, Roni F. "The Best of Times: Your Finest Moments Can Hold the Clues to Your Future Success." Career World Nov.-Dec. 2005: 18-21. Student Resource Center Gold. Gale. Millbrook Media Center, Raleigh, NC. 29 Nov. 2007 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/?db=SRC-1>>.