

Quoting, Paraphrasing,  
Summarizing, and Generalizing

# Einhard, *The Life of Charlemagne*

“These were not the sole reasons for Charlemagne’s last visit to Rome. The truth is that the inhabitants of Rome had violently attacked Pope Leo, putting out his eyes and cutting off his tongue, and had forced him to flee to the King for help.”

Turner, Samuel Epes. “Medieval Sourcebook: Einhard, The Life of Charlemagne.” *Internet History Sourcebooks*. Fordham University, Jan. 1999. Web. 04 Nov. 2015.

And so I write...

As leader of the Carolingian Franks, Charlemagne sought to expand his influence territorially and, equally important to him, socially. Right before Christmas mass coronation, the inhabitants of Rome had violently attacked Pope Leo, putting out his eyes and cutting off his tongue, and had forced him to flee to the King for help.

Problems?

Plagiarism

# Correction

As leader of the Carolingian Franks, Charlemagne sought to expand his influence territorially and, equally important to him, socially. Right before Christmas mass coronation, the inhabitants of Rome attacked the pope, “putting out his eyes and cutting off his tongue,” an event that may have prompted the pontiff to reach out to the Frankish leader (Turner).

## Weaved Quote and In-Text Citation

## A different sort of error...

As leader of the Carolingian Franks, Charlemagne sought to expand his influence territorially and, equally important to him, socially. One of the earliest sources on the Frankish leader's ascension links his coronation to Pope Leo being attacked by Roman citizens. They had viciously attacked the pontiff, who sought Charlemagne's defense and in return provided for him political power.

## Problem in Paraphrasing

# Correction

As leader of the Carolingian Franks, Charlemagne sought to expand his influence territorially and, equally important to him, socially. One of the earliest sources on the Frankish leader's ascension links his coronation to Pope Leo being attacked by Roman citizens. They had viciously attacked the pontiff, who sought Charlemagne's defense and in return provided for him political power (Turner).

Paraphrases Should Be Cited

## Another sort of error

As leader of the Carolingian Franks, Charlemagne sought to expand his influence territorially and, equally important to him, socially. One can look no further than Christmas Mass in 800, when Pope Leo coronated Charlemagne Holy Roman Emperor after saving the pontiff from unruly inhabitants who sought to kill the pontiff.

Problems?

Paraphrase/Summary Error

# Correction

As leader of the Carolingian Franks, Charlemagne sought to expand his influence territorially and, equally important to him, socially. One can look no further than Christmas Mass in 800, when Pope Leo crowned Charlemagne Holy Roman Emperor after saving the pontiff from unruly inhabitants who sought to kill the pontiff (Turner).

Summaries Should Be Cited



## One more issue...

Several sources point to the Frankish leader's ascension, when Pope Leo crowned Charlemagne Holy Roman Emperor after having saved the pontiff from attacks by his own people.

## Generalization Error

## One more issue...

Several historians emphasize the Frankish leader's ascension, when Pope Leo crowned Charlemagne Holy Roman Emperor after having saved the pontiff from attacks by his own people (Lee 232; Beck et al 21; Bentley 236).

## Generalizations Should Be Cited

# Thesis Statement

Though many contemporary economists consider Smith the founding father of modern economic theory (Adams 69; Bhagwati 162; McLaren 137), his free trade philosophy lacked novelty because it merely drew from extant British phenomena: through his laissez-faire program, he reinforced developing Enlightenment principles; he recommended an efficient labor system that complemented an industrialization already taking place; and he echoed existing British attitudes by suggesting that the English Crown forfeit its American colonies to remain financially solvent.

When you quote, paraphrase, summarize, or generalize, you *must* include an in-text citation.

Readers can then check the citation in your works cited page.

# Weaving/Integrating Quotes

# Problem?

Hamlet denies Rosencrantz's claim that thwarted ambition caused his depression. "I could be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space" (*Hamlet* 2.2).

## Solution #1: Lead Into the Quote With a Colon

Hamlet denies Rosencrantz's claim that thwarted ambition caused his depression: "I could be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space" (*Hamlet* 2.2).

## Solution #2: Introduce the Quote By Attributing it to the Speaker

Hamlet denies Rosencrantz's claim that thwarted ambition caused his depression. He states, "I could be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space" (*Hamlet* 2.2).



## Solution #3: Interrupt the Quote With an Attribution to the Speaker

“There is nothing either good or bad,” Hamlet argues, “but thinking makes it so” (*Hamlet* 2.2).

# Solution #4: Use the Words Grammatically Within Your Own Sentence

When Hamlet tells Rosencrantz that he “could be bound in a nutshell and count [him]self a king of infinite space” (*Hamlet* 2.2), he implies that thwarted ambition did not cause his depression.

# How Much Should We Quote?

Sparingly.

Remember, your paper should primarily contain your own words, so quote only the most pithy and memorable parts of sources, or when you think the quote will do more good than your own analysis.

# How Much Should We Cite?

Whenever *necessary*.

Citations are bad when:

- You overuse them

- You don't advance your argument

Citations are good when:

- You recognize/acknowledge broader literature

- You use them to advance your argument