

Incorporating Evidence

Properly incorporating evidence helps us avoid plagiarism, show why we used a particular source, and maintain the logic and flow of our argument. There are a few things to consider when integrating evidence into a piece of writing.

Decide whether it is best to summarize, paraphrase, or quote

Summarizing uses fewer words to express the main ideas of an author. Summarize when

- you have a lengthy text, or
- you want to give a brief overview of the main ideas.

Paraphrasing restates the author's ideas in about the same number of words. Paraphrase when

- the ideas are important, but the exact words are not;
- you need to simplify the language for your audience; or
- you want to reorder the source's ideas.

Quoting uses the exact words of an author in quotation marks. Quote when

- the language is especially vivid or expressive or is needed for technical accuracy, or
- the exact words of an authority figure add significance to an argument.

Try to use a mixture of summary, paraphrasing, and quotes along with a variety of sources.

Use Signal Phrases To Integrate Sources

Using signal phrases, sometimes referred to as "reporting words," does three main things:

1. Prepares the reader for the switch between your ideas and someone else's.
2. Establishes the identity and authority of the source.
3. Puts the source material in context.

Short list of signal phrases:

Acknowledges	Believes	Denies	Illustrates	Refutes
Adds	Claims	Describes	Implies	Rejects
Admits	Compares	Disputes	Insists	Reports
Agrees	Confirms	Emphasizes	Notes	Responds
Argues	Contends	Endorses	Observes	Suggests
Asserts	Declares	Grants	Points out	Writes

Try to vary the sentence structure and reporting words. For example:

- According to Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, "We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."
- The Ministry of Magic reports that...
- As long-time Auror, Alastor Moody and recent inductee Nymphadora Tonks point out, "..."
- Hermione Granger offers an interesting perspective: "..."

Table adapted from A Pocket Style Manual, 8th edition by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers

Analyze and synthesize sources

Analyze your sources so your reader will know why you used that source and draw the same conclusions that you did. What does the source show, why is it important, and how does it support the thesis of your paper? Don't just repeat what the source already said. In addition, think about how your sources work with each other.

In the story "The Nose" by Nikolai Gogol, Kovalev wakes up one day to find his nose has vanished. He embarks on a frantic search for the nose, in which he finds himself in a variety of bizarre situations. Eventually the nose is returned to him, and he resumes his life as if nothing happened. Though there have been many different interpretations of Gogol's popular short story, the hyperbolic significance Kovalev puts on his missing nose shows the absurdity of how people so often place more importance on physical appearance over the inner qualities of a person.

Summary of "The Nose"
The writer's own ideas/main argument

Some scholars are reluctant to attribute deeper meaning to the nose in the story. For example, biographer V. Setschkareff argues that it is merely a lighthearted story with no deeper meaning (118-123). However, others contend that "The Nose" indeed has more complex implications. Paul Freidman, an M.D. and Ph.D., relates the story of the nose to the current popularity of rhinoplasty – plastic surgery to alter the appearance of a patient's nose. He mentions that these patients often do not need surgery, but, much like Kovalev, they expect a more perfect nose to improve their lives, though this is rarely the result (342). Even though the story of Kovalev and his missing nose appears absurd, it in fact represents anxieties about appearance that are very real for many people. These anxieties are shown when Kovalev exclaims that "lacking a nose, a man is devil knows what: not a bird, not a citizen" (315). This reveals that he sees the value and identity of a person entwined primarily with their physical appearance. Kovalev himself is not exactly a successful man; however, because of what he considers a handsome nose, he was able to see himself as capable of achieving his aspirations. Because of this he expends significantly more effort in searching for his nose than he ever did in rising in rank or finding a suitable wife. Unlike Freidman, Peter C. Spycher does not explicitly focus on the topic of physical appearance; however, he still emphasizes the fact that Kovalev's obsession with the importance of his nose is at odds with the fact that by the end "it is nothing but a white, solid object . . . in a way something about as worthless as Kovalev the whole man is" (363). He brings to light the absurdity that one body part can make someone better than they generally are. When Kovalev regains his nose it is not transformative in any meaningful way – he is the same rank and no closer to a meaningful relationship than before – showing that the nose on its own is nothing special, no matter how handsome it is. Nevertheless, Kovalev, as well as others, hold on to the hope that if they have the right appearance, they can be successful.

Summary of Setchkareff's argument
Relationship between sources
Contextualizes the source
Paraphrase
The writer's analysis
Integrated quote building off of analysis
The writer's analysis
Contextualization of the source
Integrated quote
The writer's analysis
Conclusion related to the thesis

Works Cited

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- Gogol, Nikolai. "The Nose." *The Collected tales of Nikolai Gogol*. Translated by R. Pelvear and L. Volokhonsk, Vintage Classics, 1998, pp. 301-326.
- Setschkareff, Vsevolod. *N. V. Gogol: Leben und Schaffen*. Osteuropa Institut an der Frein Iniversitat, 1953.
- Spycher, Peter C. "M.V. Gogol's "The Nose": A Satirical Comic Fantasy Born of an Impotence Complex." *The Slavic and East European Journal*, vol. 7 no 4, 1963 pp 361-374. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/305434.

Always cite your sources!!!