



WRITER'S STUDIO RESOURCES:



SECONDARY SOURCES

What is a secondary source?

- A secondary source is anything you reference outside of your primary source and your own ideas. Secondary sources provide the evidence for your essay.
- Anything can be a secondary source: a news article, a research study, an essay, an interview, a Youtube video, a blog, etc.

Secondary Source vs Primary Source

- A primary source is an original work or direct artifact of your topic. Primary sources are usually factual or creative, not analytical. Primary sources can be works of literature or film, scientific studies, historical documents, etc.
- Secondary sources analyze, interpret, or comment on a primary source or topic.
- *Ex: Topic = Overcrowding in animal shelters | Primary source = ASPCA shelter statistics | Secondary source = "Using Free Adoptions to Reduce Crowding and Euthanasia at Cat Shelters: An Australian Case Study" (Crawford et. al, 2017)*

Why do I need secondary sources?

- Incorporating secondary sources is the basis of all academic writing. It's all about joining the existing conversation and adding your voice to the topic in the context of what others have already said about it. That's where secondary sources come in: they anchor your essay within the conversation and show that you have done your research.
- **Rule of thumb:** whenever you are using someone else's ideas to talk about your primary source or topic, or using facts or information you didn't already know, that counts as a secondary source.

Secondary sources have two main functions they can serve in your essay: as supporting evidence to back up your own claims or as counter evidence to present opposing viewpoints. Both are important to developing a strong, balanced argument in your essay.

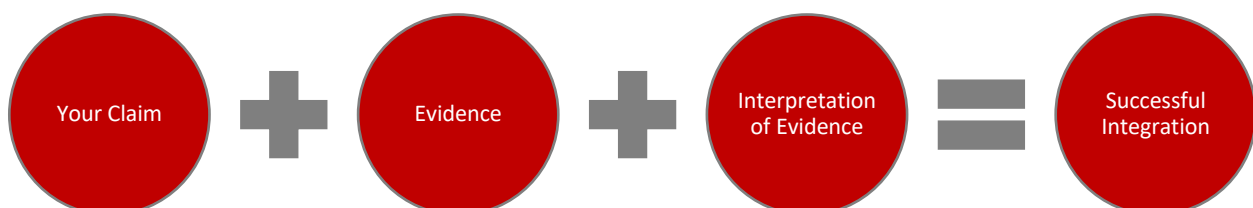
Supporting Evidence

Using information from your secondary sources to back up your points strengthens your argument by lending authority and credibility to your ideas.

Counter Evidence

Bringing up opposing viewpoints strengthens your essay by making you address counter arguments and anticipate reader responses.

Remember! It's not enough to put evidence from secondary sources into your essay. You need to *do something* with the information to make the connection between the source and your argument clear. Use this formula to make sure you're getting the most out of your sources:



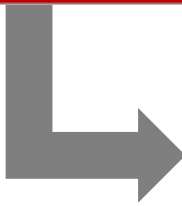


Secondary Source Integration

How do I use secondary sources?

There are three ways to incorporate information from secondary sources into your own text:

Summary	Paraphrase	Quote
In a summary, you put the main idea from a source into your own words. Generally, summaries take large sections of the text and simplify it into a sentence or two.	A paraphrase is similar to a summary, but covers less content. In a paraphrase, you take a sentence or part of a sentence and put it into your own words.	Unlike summary and paraphrasing, quotes take the exact words from a source and replicate them word-for-word in your text. <i>(See our guide on Quotations for more information!)</i>



Remember! No matter what method you use, secondary source material must *always* include a citation. This indicates to readers where the information is coming from and keeps you from plagiarizing.
(See our guide on Citations for more!)

Summary, Paraphrase, and Quotation in Action

Original passage: “Waiving adoption fees to encourage adoptions and reduce euthanasia of healthy adult cats in crowded shelters is controversial because of concerns that people attracted to free adoptions may be less responsible owners. An extremely busy kitten season in 2015 left no shelter or foster vacancies for incoming cats at Western Australia’s largest cat shelter. *Instead of euthanizing healthy cats, the shelter held a three day adoption-drive where cats ≥1 year were free. Public response to the event was extremely high (weekly adoptions increased >5-fold).* Post-adoption surveys were carried out and results compared with surveys of cat adopters who paid normal-fees during non-promotional periods ... Overall, we found no evidence for adverse outcomes associated with free adoptions. Animal shelters should not be dissuaded from occasional free adoption-drives during overflow periods.” (From “Using Free Adoptions to Reduce Crowding and Euthanasia at Cat Shelters: An Australian Case Study” by Heather Crawford, Joseph Fontaine, and Michael Calver)

- **Summary** – Restate main points in your own words:
 - *While some shelters worry that free adoption drives may invite irresponsible adopters, studies find no evidence to support those worries* (Crawford et al. 1).
- **Paraphrase** – Restate one point in your own words (marked in *italics* in passage above):
 - *A three day free adoption event at a Western Australian cat shelter garnered much public support with a five times increase in adoptions* (Crawford et al. 1).
- **Quote** – Replicate the text word-for-word:
 - *The study found that free adoptions did not place cats in irresponsible homes and concluded that “[a]nimal shelters should not be dissuaded from occasional free adoption-drives during overflow periods”* (Crawford et al. 1).