



MLA PAPER FORMAT & CITATIONS

STEP 2 - CREATING AN IN-TEXT CITATION

Citing a direct quote

"Despite its prickly and Puritan image, the Massachusetts of mid-1774 enjoyed new stature and sympathy as the victim of Britain's harsh retaliation for the tea being thrown into Boston Harbor."

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STEP 2 - CREATING AN IN-TEXT CITATION

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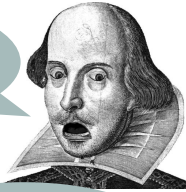
Author

Page number

Punctuation goes after citation!

STEP 2 - CREATING AN IN-TEXT CITATION

What if I want to put it in my own words?



That's called a paraphrase, and YES you need to cite that too!



STEP 2 - CREATING AN IN-TEXT CITATION

Citing a paraphrase

"Despite its prickly and Puritan image, the Massachusetts of mid-1774 enjoyed new stature and sympathy as the victim of Britain's harsh retaliation for the tea being thrown into Boston Harbor."

According to Kevin Phillips in the book 1775, Massachusetts, previously viewed as stuffy and uptight, gained attention and allies after Britain punished the colony for the Boston Tea Party (18).

STEP 2 - CREATING AN IN-TEXT CITATION

Author can be cited in the text rather than parentheses.

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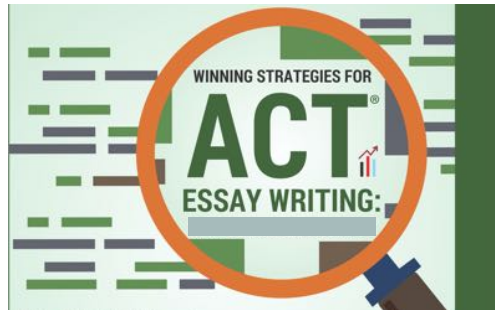
Quotation marks not needed for a paraphrase.

Page number

STEP 2 – CREATING AN IN-TEXT CITATION

Some authors have suggested that Nazi propaganda was most successful in its ability to galvanize resentment against the Jews and facilitate the Nazi policy of extermination. For instance, numerous authors have demonstrated the deleterious role of propaganda in creating a demonic image of Jews, which along with racial laws, boycotts and ghettoization allowed the Nazis to alienate Jews from German society. Nazi propaganda efforts in conceptualizing threats to the *Volksdeutsche* (people who were culturally German) in Eastern Europe provided Nazis with justification and East European citizens with incentive to participate in the Nazis' genocidal policies in Eastern Europe (Bergen, 570). While Doris Bergen's thesis provided a superlative discussion of how Nazi propaganda could facilitate Nazi racial policy, it did not demonstrate the role that Nazi racial propaganda played in enabling their rise to power, which activated the lever of the Holocaust. Daniel J. Goldhagen attempted to answer this question. Goldhagen said, "Whatever else Germans thought about Hitler and the Nazi movement, however much they might have detested aspects of Nazism, the vast majority of them subscribed to the underlying Nazi model of Jews and in this sense . . . were 'Nazified' in their views of Jews" (87).

Topic Sentence
 Example from accumulated sources
 Outside source
 Outside source
 Outside source
 Outside source quote



ACT ESSAY WRITING (40 MINUTES)

Education and the Workplace

Many colleges and universities have cut their humanities departments, and high schools have started to shift their attention much more definitively toward STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and away from ELA (English, Language Arts). Representatives from both school boards and government organizations suggest that the move toward STEM is necessary in helping students to participate in a meaningful way in the American workplace. Given the urgency of this debate for the future of education and society as a whole, it is worth examining the potential consequences of this shift in how students are educated in the United States.

ACT ESSAY WRITING (40 MINUTES)

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the shift in American education.

Perspective 1	Perspective 2	Perspective 3
ELA programs should be emphasized over STEM programs. Education is not merely a means to employment: ELA education helps students to live more meaningful lives. In addition, an exclusively STEM-based program cannot help but limit students' creativity and lead them to overemphasize the importance of money and other tangible gains.	ELA programs should be eradicated entirely, except to establish the basic literacy necessary to engage in the hard sciences, mathematics, and business. Reading and writing are activities that are best saved for the leisure of students who enjoy them.	ELA and STEM programs should always be in equal balance with one another. Both are necessary to providing a student with a well-rounded education. Moreover, equal emphasis will allow the fullest possible exposure to many subjects before students choose their majors and careers.

ACT ESSAY WRITING (40 MINUTES)

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the issue of how schools should balance STEM and ELA subjects. In your essay, be sure to:

- **analyze and evaluate** the perspectives given
- **state and develop** your own perspective on the issue
- **explain** the relationship between your perspective and those given

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of the others, in partial agreement, or wholly different. Whatever the case, support your ideas with logical reasoning and detailed, persuasive examples.

ACT ESSAY WRITING (40 MINUTES)

How to Write the ACT Essay

Your job is to write an essay in which you take some sort of position on the prompt, all while assessing the three perspectives provided in the boxes. Find a way to anchor your essay with a unique perspective of your own that can be defended and debated, and you are already in the upper echelon of scorers.

Step 1: Work the Prompt

What in the prompt requires you to weigh in? Why is this issue still the subject of debate and not a done deal?

ALWAYS TAKE 2-3 MINUTES TO MAKE AN OUTLINE AND WRITE A SOLID THESIS STATEMENT!

ACT ESSAY WRITING (40 MINUTES)

Step 2: Work the Perspectives

Typically, the three perspectives will be split: one *for*, one *against*, and one *in the middle*. Your goal in Step 2 is to figure out where each perspective stands and then identify at least one shortcoming of each perspective. For the example above, ask yourself:

- What does each perspective consider?
- What does each perspective overlook?

ACT ESSAY WRITING (40 MINUTES)

Step 3: Generate Your Own Perspective

Now it's time to come up with your own perspective! If you merely restate one of the three given perspectives, you won't be able to get into the highest scoring ranges. You'll draw from each of the perspectives, and you may side with one of them, but your perspective should have something unique about it.

- Be sure to point out the counter-arguments and then disprove them with your examples (strongest when placed in the *penultimate* — second to last — paragraph)

ACT ESSAY WRITING (40 MINUTES)

Step 4: Put It All Together

Now that you have your ideas in order, here's a blueprint for how to organize the ACT essay. This blueprint works no matter what your prompt is.

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start with a topic sentence that restates the central issue• Clearly state your position on the issue
Body Paragraph (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start with a transition/topic sentence that discusses the OPPOSING SIDE of your argument• Discuss the given perspective(s) that would support the opposing argument• Give a specific example that could be used to support the opposing perspective• Explain why you disagree with the opposing perspective
Body Paragraph (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start with a transition/topic sentence that discusses YOUR POSITION on the central issue• Explain your position including any of the given perspectives that support your position• Give an example that supports your position• End the paragraph by restating your position
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap your discussion• Restate your perspective and arguments• Provide a final overarching thought on the topic



ACTIVE VS. PASSIVE VOICE

Active voice means that a sentence has a subject that acts upon its verb. Passive voice means that a subject is a recipient of a verb's action.

ACTIVE VS. PASSIVE VOICE

Active voice examples

Monkeys adore bananas.
The cashier counted the money.
The dog chased the squirrel.

All three sentences have a basic active voice construction: subject, verb, and object. The subject *monkey* performs the action described by *adore*. The subject *the cashier* performs the action described by *counted*. The subject *the dog* performs the action described by *chased*. The subjects are doing, doing, doing—they *take action* in their sentences. The active voice reminds us of the popular Nike slogan, "Just Do It."

Passive voice

A sentence is in the passive voice, on the other hand, when the subject is acted on by the verb. The passive voice is always constructed with a conjugated form of *to be* plus the verb's past participle. Doing this usually generates a preposition as well. That sounds much more complicated than it is—passive voice is actually quite easy to detect. For these examples of passive voice, we will transform the three active sentences above to illustrate the difference.

Passive voice examples

Bananas are adored by monkeys.
The money was counted by the cashier.
The squirrel was chased by the dog.

ACT ESSAY WRITING (40 MINUTES)

Step 5: (If There's Time): Proofread

Spend one or two minutes on proofreading your essay if you have time. You're looking for big, glaring errors. If you find one, erase it completely or cross it out neatly. Though neatness doesn't necessarily affect your grade, it does make for a happy grader.
