

Avoiding Plagiarism

Summarizing: Use your own words to express in concise form the main ideas of the selected text, usually a paragraph or more

Ex: Haw Branch plantation has been haunted for more than a century. Many strange occurrences have taken place, including strange happenings concerning a painting of a woman in white. No one knows why they still occur (Bahr, Taylor, and Coleman 210-212).

Or, including the authors in the summary

According to Bahr, Taylor and Coleman, Haw Branch Plantation has been haunted for more than a century. Many strange occurrences have taken place, including strange happenings concerning a painting of a woman in white. No one knows why they still occur (210-212).

Paraphrasing: Using your own words to restate someone else's words or ideas

Ex. The strange occurrences at Haw Branch plantation have been known far and wide, even beyond Virginia. These include unexplained footsteps, screaming, and strange behavior of a particular picture, a portrait of Florence White. No one knows what has haunted, and still haunts Haw Branch (Bahr, Taylor, and Coleman 210).

To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon:

There have been many sightings of unexplained phenomena at Haw Branch from contemporary sources (Bahr 210; "Haw Branch Plantation Haunting").

Quoting: Using exact wording...

Ex. Haw Branch plantation, in Amelia County, Virginia is now on the National Register of Historic Places. It has had strange history. The authors claim, “manifestations of the supernatural here were seemingly endless, including phantom footsteps, the apparition of a woman in white and strangest of all, the odd behavior of a certain portrait in the house” (Bahr, Taylor, and Coleman 210). These bizarre happenings continue to be reported to this day.

Or, including the authors’ names in the paragraph

In *Weird Virginia*, Bahr, Taylor and Coleman claim, “manifestations of the supernatural here were seemingly endless, including phantom footsteps, the apparition of a woman in white and strangest of all, the odd behavior of a certain portrait in the house” (210). These bizarre happenings continue to this day.