

# Writing Research Paragraphs

You will be writing a research paragraph with a quote embedded in the paragraph. Remember that your first sentence should be your CLAIM. The second sentence (and maybe the third) should set up your quote so it makes sense to the reader (any background information or explanations should be given here). Then you need a SIGNAL PHRASE to begin the sentence that contains your quote. Then your QUOTE should be given in quotation marks exactly as it appears in the original text. If you add words, they must be inside [brackets like these]. If you omit words, you must use marks of ellipses like these . . . After the quote, you should MAKE A POINT with the information from the quote. Never end with a quote.

**Please find an article online from a reliable source such as *Time* magazine, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *CNN*, or other obviously reliable sources that contains information about the influence of video games on children. Then take a side on the issue to make a claim—such as “Violent video games have a negative effect on children and should be banned” or “Because video games provide beneficial hand/eye coordination improvement, they should be encouraged as a training tool for children.” Once you have made your claim, find a quote that supports your claim and construct a paragraph that is correctly formatted for a research paper. An example is given below.**

**Claim**

**Signal Phrase**

**MLA Documentation  
with author's name  
in signal phrase**

**MLA Documentation  
without author's name  
in signal phrase**

Because of mounting public awareness of the dangers of drivers distracted by phones,

state legislators must begin to take the problem seriously. The nation has begun considering the matter and many have written to their legislators about the matter.

Matt Sundeen of the National Conference of State Legislatures explained by saying, “It’s definitely an issue that is gaining steam around the country,” (119). According to an article in *The Washington Post* that explained the trends on this issue in the country, “There is momentum building” to pass laws (Smith 12). Obviously the country has decided that the time has come for states to adopt legislation restricting the use of cell phones in moving vehicles.

**Quote Set Up**

**Point of Quote**