Paraphrasing and Quoting 101
MLA Style, 8th Ed.

WHAT IS A PARAPHRASE?
A good paraphrase conveys the meaning of the source used and attributes it correctly.
A paraphrase is information that you have learned from an outside source (book, journal, video, conversation, etc.) that is not common knowledge, put into your own words. Paraphrasing lets you share an author's idea without using direct quotes.

WHAT IS A QUOTE?
The *MLA Handbook* states that "the accuracy of quotations is crucial. They must reproduce the original sources exactly" (75). Quoting is great when you find a short statement or exact phrase that supports your idea.

Quoting lets you use the author's exact words for added effect.

Here's an example of an original source:

Despite the myth of mobility in America, the true rule, experts say, is rags to rags, riches to riches. According to Bucknell University economist and author Charles Sackrey, maybe 10 percent climb from the working to the professional class. My father has had a tough time accepting my decision to become a mere newspaper reporter, a field that pays just a little more than construction does. He wonders why I haven't taken a profitable job like a lawyer. After bricklaying for thirty years, my father promised himself I would take a better job and earn more money with an education.


(and here's how you use it)
Lubrano's father was upset that his son did not make significantly more money as a reporter than he did as a bricklayer, since he hoped his son getting an education would get him a better job (573).

Despite the "the myth of mobility in America, the true rule, experts say, is rags to rags, riches to riches" (Lubrano 573).

**CITING SOURCES**

You should always give credit for any idea you use in a paper that is not your own opinion. If you're using any idea that isn't your own, reference it! This not only keeps you safe from plagiarism, but also allows your readers to follow the path of your research.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Not sure how to cite a particular source in MLA style?
Check out the Library MLA guide for specific directions!

https://simmons.libguides.com/mla