Integrating Outside Sources  
(Paraphrase)

When integrating outside sources, the goal is to work the sources into your writing, not to insert your writing into the sources. The whole point of using outside sources is to provide evidence and support for the main thrust of the paper (your own ideas and/or purpose).

When to paraphrase:
If at all possible, try to limit your use of direct quotations. An appropriate alternative is to paraphrase or reword the direct quotation. This means that you are use your own phrasing, word choice, and sentence structure. While this task can sometimes be difficult, a correct paraphrase can show the professor that you are able to interact with and understand the text.

NOTE: A paraphrase must ALWAYS be accompanied by an in-text citation!

How to paraphrase:

Examples:

---Original source: “With the studio struggling, Walt and Roy decided to sell stock in the company. This helped ease the cash-flow crisis, but it was a stopgap measure. It was clear to everyone working for Walt that hard times had hit. But the studio was large now, and Walt had lost direct contact with many of his writers and artists. They couldn’t know that Walt was opposed to making up shortages by getting rid of staff, that he was losing sleep at night worrying about money, that he was fighting to save their jobs” (Greene & Greene, 2001, p. 71).


---Correct: Although the financial status of the company was faltering, Walt and Roy were determined to make ends meet. Selling some of the company’s stock was beneficial, but the financial demands caused Walt to suffer many sleepless nights. His staff, composed of writers and artists, knew that the budget was tight; however, they were unaware that their jobs were on the line. Walt was doing everything in his power to keep each of them employed (Greene & Greene, 2001).

---Incorrect: Because the studio was struggling, Walt and Roy decided to sell stock. This helped to ease the financial crisis, but it was a substitute measure. Everyone that worked for Walt knew that hard times had hit (Greene & Greene, 2001).

(This is not a proper paraphrase. The word choice, structure, and phrasing are too close to the original.)

---Original source: “The scholarly debate is significant because a flood of books on the Judas gospel hit bookstores starting in the spring of 2006” (Dart, 2007, p. 12).


---Correct: Scholars, students, and laypersons alike are in a debate over this subject, which has increasingly become popular ever since the public was exposed to the idea of a “Judas gospel” (Dart, 2007).

---Incorrect: The scholarly discussion is significant because a lot of books on the Judas gospel hit bookstore shelves a couple of seasons ago (Dart, 2007).

---Original source: “Dickinson’s highly original writing makes her a maddeningly difficult poet, one whom eminent critics confess baffles them” (Franke, 2008, p. 62).


---Correct: Even critics have a hard time understanding Dickinson’s poetry; her language, tone, and overall structure comprise her unique writing style (Franke, 2008).

---Incorrect: Dickinson’s very unique writing makes her a complex poet, one whom famous critics confess confuse them.