QUOTING OTHERS

You need to develop a vocabulary of verbs and phrases for use in giving others credit. Be careful to use terms precisely. Avoid using claims when you probably mean says. Avoid using argues when you mean suggests. When you use goes on to say, the writer you are referring to should be continuing.

Some words stronger than others: argue/wrote; concludes/suggests; insists/notes; claims/comments.

It is risky to use terms such as believes, feels, is convinced. You may not know what the author feels or believes.

There is no complete agreement on the use of terms such as apparently or seems to. Some suggest these words as an indicators of the writer’s caution. Others suggest that the purpose of the research paper is to put oneself on the line by taking a position. Balance may be important. If everything said is tentative, the reader may become bored with the weight of reading.

Consider these samples and create variants of them for your use.

1. Carl Michalson says that …
2. *The Encyclopedia of Southern Baptist* reports that …
3. In Gregory of Nyssa’s phrase,
4. Concerning this incident, Kenneth Scott Latourette comments that …
5. William Horden Suggests that …
6. In what is Christianity? Adolph Harnack asserts …
7. The truly regenerate are, in Karl Barth’s words, the “Real Church.”
8. Albert Schweitzer makes clear that …
9. J. L. Neve surveys …
10. Richard Niebuhr suggests that…
11. As Alan Richardson says, ..
12. It is Alice Gardner’s last phrase that interprets Mircea’s position …
13. F. W. Dillistone insists that …
14. William Horden points out that…
15. As Paul Tillich puts it,
16. As G. Ernest Wright notes,
17. According to Marcus Barth,
18. Baylor President Pat M. Neff argued that …
19. E. C. Routh once replied that …
20. The main points of the argument, as outlined by Professor Crowder, are as follows:
21. W. T. Conner reminds us that …
22. For example, Shedd claims that …
23. Boyce, Strong, and Dagg agree that …
24. Broadus confirms that …
25. The basic truth, as revealed by Tertullian, demands…
26. L. R. Elliot was perceptive enough to recognize that …
27. Both he and J. B. Gambrell have contended that …
28. D. B Ray positioned Carroll’s idea when he wrote …
29. L. R. Scarborough concluded that …
30. Consider H.E. Dana’s celebrated argument that …
31. W. W. Barnes assumes that …

This handout was first developed and used by Dr. Carl Wrontenbery, former instructor of the Reasearch Seminar.

1. W. O. Carver’ critical judgment is that …
2. C. E. Autry has recorded the contention …
3. Graves himself said that …
4. Robert A. Baker has remarked,
5. J. M. Dawson has called the position …
6. Dale Moody sees in this story …
7. James Leo Garret found in E. C. Rust’s interpretation …
8. A Greek father, Gregory of Nyssa, draws attention to an example…
9. To quote J. M. Pendleton …
10. In the passage, Robert Barclay discerns …
11. Morgan describes Anglicans as …
12. Thus G. R. Beaseley-Murray leads us to see that …
13. In George W. Truett’s words “ …
14. Emil Brunner explains that …
15. Cyril of Jerusalem then goes on to argue …
16. Little’s point is that …
17. To suggests this, Joseph H. Thayer …
18. H. H. Rowley observes that …
19. On this point Justin Martyr has testified that …
20. A study in Religion and Culture shows that …
21. Taylor’s Christology regards …
22. John Marsh contends that Temple’s criticisms …
23. Pittenger summarizes this basic objection:
24. Taylor’s Christology regards …
25. D. M. Baillie counters the objection of metamorphosis with the contention that …
26. Cullman interprets the Christological interest as …
27. When Piper states that …
28. Shedd expressed a belief similar to Carroll’s when he said “.

This handout was first developed and used by Dr. Carl Wrontenbery, former instructor of the Reasearch Seminar.