

Journalism

Quotations and Attribution Drill

The source of every quotation used in a story must be attributed, or identified. Here are some rules for attribution:

- Use *said* rather than *commented*, *stated* or *says*.
- Who is talking comes before *said* in most cases.
- The exception is a long description of the person or his/her occupation, in that case *said* comes before the name and the details are added after the attribution.
- Break up long quotes by putting the attribution in the middle of it. The rule of thumb is to attribute after the first sentence, then finish the quote to complete the person's statement.
- Avoid referring to the reporter. Phrases such as *when asked* are unnecessary.
- If the speaker uses expressions such as *uh*, *um* or other fillers, you may eliminate them.
- If the speaker uses a few ungrammatical or other inappropriate words, you may correct the language in the quote or choose to paraphrase what was said. Do not change intent.

Attribution Drills: Rewrite the following items in Word so that the attribution is correct and use correct AP Style as well. Double space your attributions and save them in the News folder as Attribution Drill.

1. Senior Sammy Smith commented, "National Honor Society looks good on college applications because it is based on grades."
2. When asked by this reporter, Girl's Basketball Coach Sheila Shoot noted that "not everyone who attended the basketball game against Frisco High School was aware of the controversial call."
3. "No one remembers now, but the cafeteria used to be painted with Titans. Since so many students claimed that they were creepy, it was decided to change the mural," Director of Food Services Division Lucia Rogers said.
4. School Board President John Grump: "The program is not worth funding. We just don't need an auto body class in high school."
5. When asked what their challenges were this year, Mike Malone, junior, shouted: "We ain't never going to be able to field a winning team till we get ourselves new equipment."
6. Student Council president Elaine Spiriter: "It has, um, recently been brought to my attention that... Where are my notes?... that only one representative from the Junior Class was in attendance, and that was, um Rachel Murphy, no, Rachel McMurphy."