

Consecutive Citations

Don't cite after every sentence in a paragraph if all the citations are from the same source, as is done in the passage below:

Teachers interact by taking classes into the community or bringing in stakeholders who represent civic, career, adult processes and procedures, leading to a better understanding for students of the community and careers (Darmody, personal communication, April 3, 2011). The school functions as part of the larger community. For instance, students' artwork is regularly displayed at a local artisans gallery on a regular basis (Darmody, personal communication, April 3, 2011). In addition, the school theatre group picks cast members from the general population and provides full performances and teasers inside and outside the high school (Darmody, personal communication, April 3, 2011). Some teachers and administrators are members of local community groups and staff members are encouraged to participate in community activities (Darmody, personal communication, April 3, 2011). The chief administrator (referring to himself, the principal) lives in town, serves on two community boards, and represents the high school at community events (Darmody, personal communication, April 3, 2011).

(You can see how tedious it is for the reader to see the same parenthetical citation listed after each sentence.)

Instead, write the paragraph in such a way that the reader can tell that you've used the same source. (Certainly cite the first instance of a source. It's also a good idea to cite the last use of a source, too. This "bookending" technique helps indicate to your reader that all of the material between the citations is drawn from one source.) See the revised example below:

Principal Darmody maintained that teachers interact by taking classes into the community or bringing in stakeholders who represent civic, career, adult processes and procedures, leading to a better understanding for students of the community and careers (personal communication, April 3, 2011). The school, he continued, functions as part of the larger community. For instance, students' artwork is regularly displayed at a local artisans gallery on a regular basis In addition, his school theatre group picks cast members from the general population and provides full performances and teasers inside and outside the high school (Darmody, personal communication, April 3, 2011).

Of course, crafting your sentences in this way requires more thought and time—but it also yields a more readable essay that demonstrates to the reader that you invested extra time to create a more considered paper.

When you use the same source for consecutive citations, you may use “*ibid.*” (italicized, and followed by a period) for every consecutive citation of that source. Remember to format the first parenthetical citation as usual; you may use *ibid* thereafter (until you cite a different work.) Also keep in mind that if information from your citations occurs on different page numbers, you should not use *ibid.*, even if you’re citing from the same author and same work.

Principal Darmody maintained that teachers interact by taking classes into the community or bringing in stakeholders who represent civic, career, adult processes and procedures, leading to a better understanding for students of the community and careers (personal communication, April 3, 2011). The school, he continued, functions as part of the larger community. For instance, students’ artwork is regularly displayed at a local artisans gallery on a regular basis In addition, his school theatre group picks cast members from the general population and provides full performances and teasers inside and outside the high school (ibid.).