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Sample Paragraphs with Properly Cited Sources

(**Bolding** in the example below is for demonstration only. Do not use any bolding in your own text.)

Explanations of **Bolded** Text

All references must be identified by the last name of the author, year of publication, and page number. A colon (no spaces) separates the year and page number.

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When citing a source found in a collection of readings or an edited volume of articles, cite the *author's name*, not the *editor's name*, and date and page number of the collection.

Always cite the source whenever you use someone's ideas, whether you quote directly or paraphrase.

Randall Collins makes a strong and counterintuitive claim that "society itself is ultimately based not upon reasoning or rational agreement but upon a nonrational foundation" (1992:4). He begins by discussing two reasons why rationality is not a sufficient basis for social life. First, **Collins** argues that even fully rational actors can create irrational outcomes when they focus too much on following rules or procedures efficiently but slavishly, rather than trying to achieve the intended goals of those rules (1992:4-5). Second, he argues that rational actors will choose to cheat others, at least in the short term, thus making lasting social relations based solely on rational contracts unlikely (**Collins 1992:14**).

Collins concludes that social relations depend on what Emile **Durkheim**, the great French sociologist (see Jones 1997 for biographical information), called "the precontractual basis of social solidarity" (1985:161) or an underlying feeling of trust. Such trust is necessary because social relations require that people have faith that other people will uphold their agreements. **Collins** argues that such faith or trust is achieved most notably through "social rituals" (1992:29), in which people collect together and focus their attention on a single "symbolic object," thereby generating solidarity in the group and trust in each other (1992:42-43).

While **Collins's** main examples involve religious rituals (1992:30-59), his argument may apply even to seemingly mundane interactions. For instance, gossip, "evaluative talk about a person who is not present" (**Eder and Enke 1991:494**),

may constitute a social ritual in which people focus their attention on a symbolic object (the missing person), thus increasing the solidarity of the group as well as generating trust, even if the person being gossiped about is a member of the group. Why trust is generated in this case requires further explanation. . . .

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Author. Date of Document (or Date Located). "Title of Document." URL: URL where located.

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