



Using Quotes

When to use a direct quotation:

1) To cite an authority/expert on the subject you've chosen

- By using an authority figure in your paper, you give your writing credibility.
- Directly quoting an authority will also make sure that their meaning is not lost because you are keeping their exact words.
 - Albert Einstein describes gravity, through his theory, as “a distortion of space-time.”

2) To ensure accuracy

- Quote if the meaning or accuracy would be lost or changed if you were to put it into your own words. *Especially* if the information is very scientific or technical!
 - According to Carlton Erikson and John O’Neill, “some of the neurotransmitters involved in substance dependence are dopamine, serotonin, endorphins, and gamma amino butyric acid (GABA)”

3) To illustrate unique language

- Quote if the chosen wording of the quote is as important as the actual meaning.
 - Burn’s use of Scots dialect is a key stylistic element to his poetry, as can be seen in his 1786 poem ‘Ode to a Haggis’: Fair fa’ your honest, sonsie face, /Great chieftain o’the pudding-race! /Aboon them a’ye tak your place/.
 - During his presidency, John F. Kennedy beckoned Americans to “[a]sk not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country” (1961).

How to directly quote sources properly:

1) Acknowledge your sources by using in-text citations:

(Remember: The period at the end of the quotation will always go after the in-text citation)

- MLA: “I think; therefore I am” (Descartes 3).
- APA: “I think; therefore, I am” (Descartes, 2012, p. 3).

2) Incorporate every quote into a sentence

- Make sure to integrate every quote into a sentence by introducing it or explaining why it is important to your point.
- Transition into your quote of citation
- Restate you point and use the quote as supportive evidence within the same sentence

I.C.E: Introduce, Cite, Explain

According to Carlton Erikson and John O’Neill, “Some of the neurotransmitters involved in substance dependence are dopamine, serotonin, endorphins, and gamma amino butyric acid (GABA)” (Erikson & O’Neill 2). Finding that multiple neurotransmitters are involved in addiction prove how deeply embedded addictions are.

Introduce

Citation

Explanation



Examples:

- Plato asserted that “a hero is born among a hundred, a wise man is found among a thousand, but an accomplished man might not be found even among a hundred thousand” (1).
- Regardless of the background of a person, “from the Olympics to Monday Night Football, sports bring us together as a society” (Swanson 1).
- Funding for sports must be continued in Universities because, “from the Olympics to Monday Night Football, sports bring us together as a society” (Swanson 1).

Because the name of the author is in the sentence, it is not restated inside of the in-text

The author was not mentioned in the sentence, so it must be put in the in-text citation

Punctuation and Quotes:

- If you have an in-text citation, the period goes after the citation.
 - “I think; therefore, I am” (Descartes, 2012, p. 3).
- If there is no in-text citation, commas and periods go inside of the quotation.

*This is common in narratives and creative stories

- John said, “I don’t really want this camping trip to end.”

Modifying Quotes:

1) Use three spaced ellipsis points (. . .) within a quote to show that you have removed material from the original source.

- “A state arises . . . out of the needs of mankind” (Plato, 2012, p. 1)

2) Use four points to indicate that you removed material between two sentences.

- “What befalls the earth befalls all sons of the earth. . . . Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself” (Chief Seattle 1).

MLA

APA

3) Add something to a quote by using brackets

- Use brackets to add or change a word within a quote to help make the whole sentence grammatically correct.

*The brackets indicate the word you added or switched

- “A fool flatters himself [while] a wise man flatters the fool” (Bulwer-Lytton, 2012, p. 1)
- Original: “A fool flatters himself whilst a wise man flatters the fool” (Bulwer-Lytton, 2012, p.1)

Final Checklist:

- ✓ Have you consistently followed the citation style assigned to you? (APA or MLA)
- ✓ Is every quote followed by a citation?
- ✓ Does the period follow the end of each citation?
- ✓ Have you incorporated every quote into your work properly?