

INTEGRATING RESEARCH USING QUOTES

As college students work to earn a degree, they will be asked to do research and incorporate that research in an essay. Often times, this research comes in the form of a quotation (also known as text evidence) with proper citations. This nifty handout helps students successfully quote research by addressing the following questions: **What**, **When**, **Why** and **How**.

What is a quotation?

A quotation is information that reiterates word for word something another source has said or written. The quotation in a text is offset by quotation marks as shown here:
“Using quotes is easy and effective when used properly.”

When should one be used?

1. Quotations are best used when the original statement is so powerful that putting it into your own words would take away from its impact. For example:



They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.
-Benjamin Franklin

VS



Civil liberties are more important than safety.
-Nick Webb

2. They are also utilized when a source's words are very compact and paraphrasing it would make the original quote much longer. For instance, Aldous Huxley's short story "Time and the Machine" states, "Time is our tyrant." Using one's own words could take a lengthy interpretation; therefore, it might be better to use his words, and then, discuss the meaning afterwards as supporting sentence to the quote.
3. Lastly, quotations are integrated into text when the passage is so precise that paraphrasing may alter the meaning in some way. For example: Oklahoma state law says, "Drivers under 21 are legally drunk when their blood or breath contains any measurable quantity of alcohol."
4. Remember, over quoting is possible. Most of the paragraph should be written with the student's own ideas; therefore, if the paragraph looks like this, consider trying another method such as summarizing or paraphrasing:

The concept of time hinders one's lifestyle. According to Houxley, "Time is our tyrant. We are chronically aware of the moving minute hand, even of the moving second hand. We have to be. There are trains to be caught, clocks to be punched, tasks to be done in specific periods, records to be broken by fractions of a second, machines that set the pace and have to kept up with. Our consciousness of the smallest units of time is now acute" (365). All a person ever thinks about is time.

Why are they used?

- ✓ to give a paper **credibility**, for example, using Dr. Martin Luther King as an authority on the topic of civil rights
- ✓ to **support a claim or topic sentence** such as including the expertise of a noted psychiatrist in the field of mental illness when discussing bipolar disorder and how it affects everyday life
- ✓ as **evidence** to illustrate the opposition to a claim

How should quotations be used?

Quotations have been effectively used throughout this handout. However, they have not been given a lot of attention as to how it should be done. Next is a catchy idea on how to integrate quotations called ICE-ing your evidence:

Introduce, Cite, and Explain. First, introduce the evidence by using a signal phrase or integrating the text evidence into a **complete sentence**:

Example 1: Martin Luther King Jr. states “a law is just on its face and unjust in its application.”

Example 2: **Laws aren’t always perfect; in fact, often** “a law is just on its face and unjust in its application.”

Now, one must cite the information he or she has included in the essay. This depends on which style of documentation the professor requires-APA, MLA, APSA etc... This example demonstrates MLA :

Example 1: Martin Luther King Jr. states “a law is just on its face and unjust in its application (216). Only the page number is needed because the author was given credit in the beginning of the sentence.

Example 2: Laws aren’t always perfect; in fact, often “a law is just on its face and unjust in its application (King 216). Because the author was not previously provided in the sentence, MLA documentation requires both author and page number in the citation.

The last thing a person does when integrating quotes is to explain what the text evidence means and how it supports the main idea of the paragraph/paper.

Example: Martin Luther King Jr. states “a law is just on its face and unjust in its application” (216). By making this claim, King asserts the inherent immorality in passing laws targeting a community that had no voice in creating them.

