

Using Quotations in Academic Essays

To do a good job of developing your argument, you need to include direct quotations from the literature you are discussing. Use the following model and rules as a guideline. In this paragraph, the student is discussing a character's quality of being confused:

One obvious characteristic of Guy Montag is his confusion. When he meets and talks to Clarisse, he begins to wonder about the job he is doing and about the value of his life in general. He seems to be losing touch with himself. "The numbness will go away, he thought... Someone somewhere will give me back the old face and the old hands the way they were." (p.78)

1

Set up the quote with an independent clause

incorporate quote within Paragraph

begin/end quote with

Always provide a page reference Use this model.

Precede quote with a colon

The ellipsis (dots) indicate word, line, sentence or even a paragraph or more is left out of the quotation.

This indicates Montag's desire, sometimes to return to the security of his childhood, or even of his ignorance. As he eventually learns more about the darkness and brutality of his world, his confusion diminishes, but he also realizes that there is no going back.

If you have a quotation that you want to use that is longer than two sentences you must indent your quote. In this situation you do not need to use quotations marks; you introduce your quote with a colon.

The fourth dot is the period at the end of the preceding sentence

2

_____ } your text which sets up the quote

_____ }
_____ }
_____ }

(p.85) no quotes

_____ } your text which further supports its use or relevance

_____ }
_____ }

8

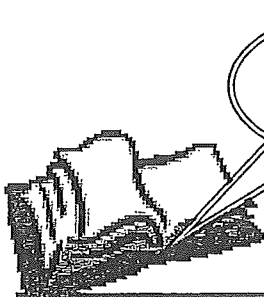
3

Third method for integrating a quote in your essay:

In the end, John achieves his goal; he resolves the conflict with Grace. He protects and retains his relationship with her; however, his inner conflict is left unresolved. He is left with shame and the image of his "father walking quietly away with his head never turning."

↓
quote is inserted grammatically right into the sentence.

punctuation goes inside quotation marks



Quotation Integration

Quotation "Dos"	Quotation "Don'ts"
<p>Do try to work quoted material into your sentence. At this moment, Whitney knew she was "destined for greatness"(54).</p>	<p>Don't "announce" quoted material. This quote shows that... This means that... On page 43 it says ... In chapter five the author says...</p>
<p>Do eliminate irrelevant material using an ellipsis. <u>Original:</u> The girl, the one with very brown hair, will be delivering the speech. <u>Modified:</u> Matt declared that "The girl...will be delivering the speech"(447).</p>	<p>Don't make quoted material its own sentence. All quotes must have <u>lead-ins</u>. Wrong: They were all shocked. "The windmill was in ruins"(71). <u>At this moment, Whitney knew that "she was destined for greatness" (54).</u></p>
<p>Do use brackets to indicate changes you made to make the sentence clear. <u>Original:</u> He demonstrated his anger toward the city council. <u>Modified:</u> "[Mayor George Smith] demonstrated his anger toward the city council"(33).</p>	<p>Don't use quotes to merely repeat and support plot points or just for the sake of having a quote; the quotes should support an <i>analysis</i>. Piggy gives him the glasses to "light the fire"(17). Piggy showed that others were coming by saying, "There's one!"(14).</p>
<p>Do use a colon to separate your <i>complete sentence lead-ins</i> from quoted material. Mollie shows her disdain for the new state of things: "She refused to learn any but the six letters which spelled her own name"(40).</p>	<p>Don't combine <i>complete sentence lead-ins</i> and <i>complete sentence quotes</i> with only a comma; it creates a comma splice. Jack represents malevolence and maliciousness throughout the novel, "You're talking too much...Shut up, Fatty"(18).</p>
<p>Do use a comma for brief introductions. As the animals recall, there was a definite ruling against beds"(79).</p>	<p>Don't create fragments. Your quote, with its lead-in, must be a grammatically correct sentence. <u>Wrong:</u> Terence says, "And I myself a sterling lad"(34). <u>Right:</u> Terence calls himself "s sterling lad"(34).</p>

Do remember to correctly cite quoted material. See Below...

1. Always end your exact words with a page number.
"exact words" (3).
2. If a quote ends with a question mark or exclamation point, then put that punctuation before the quotation marks, to make sure the intended emotion is retained.
During their phone conversation, Toby's father tries to win Toby over by saying, "I've made some mistakes We all have. But that's behind us. Right, Tober?" (211).
3. If there is a quote within the quote you are using, then use single quotation marks to set off the inner quote.
When Lena shows Ying-Ying around her new house, Ying-Ying complains that "the slant of the floor makes her feel as if she is 'running down'" (Tan 163).
4. When quoting poetry, cite line numbers, not page numbers. Also, use a slash mark (/) to designate line break.
Angelou's call "Shine on me, sunshine / Rain on me, rain / Fall softly, dewdrops" (15-17) conveys her desire to shift away from the monotony of housework.

Think about the statement you're trying to make.

- *Use evidence from the text (exact words).*
- Explain how they prove your topic sentence/thesis statement.

Example #1:

At first, Juliet had doubts about their future. She tells Romeo that the marriage is "too rash, too unadvised, too sudden" (645). Juliet's hesitation illustrates her impressive foresight; she is able to see the possible consequences to their hasty actions.

Example #2:

Terence, in an effort to counter his friend's complaint about the mournful nature of his poetry, reminds him, "There's brisker pipes than poetry" (16). His ironic suggestion to turn to liquor suggests his attitude that people look to both poetry and alcohol for the wrong reasons.