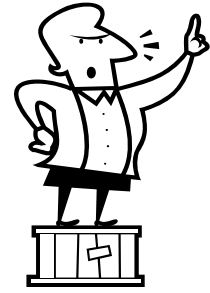


Using Quotations



Direct quotations can lend strong support to the thesis; however, they should be used sparingly. In general, only use a direct quotation if: a. the language is striking; b. the thought is difficult to rephrase accurately; c. the authority conveyed by the quote is especially important for supporting one of your main ideas; or d. the source's words could be open to interpretation so the reader needs direct access to the words.

1. Quotations **should not be dropped** into a paragraph. You need to blend the quote with your own words. Below are three examples of how this can be done. Note the punctuation and capitalization.

According to Kunzig, "the essential element of both hot-spring and cold-seep communities is a supply of either sulfide or methane" (149).

"The sudden advent of Theodore Roosevelt," writes David McCullough, "was to mark the most dramatic shift in Presidential style since Andrew Jackson" (247).

The majority of Pakistanis are Muslim, but there are also "members of other religions such as Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, and Baha'is of Iranian descent" (Pakistani 614).

2. A quote that is four or more lines long should be placed in block format. From the left margin, indent one inch. Continue to double space and type to the right margin. No quotation marks are used and the closing punctuation goes before the citation.

By the middle of the Seventeenth Century, tremendous advancements had been made in understanding the working of the human body. In 1651 Jean Pecquet of Paris traced the course of the lacteal vessels; in 1653 Olof Rudbeck of Uppsala discovered, and Thomas Batholin of Copenhagen described, the lymphatic system; and in 1664 Swammerdam detected the lymphatic valves. In that year his friend Regnier de Graaf demonstrated the function and operation of the pancreas and the bile. (Durant 522)

3. You may shorten a quotation by omitting a word, phrase, or sentence. However, in doing so, you may not change the meaning of a quote. Also, the resulting quote must be grammatically correct. You must indicate the omission with ellipsis points (three spaced periods).

Original: "Gatsby believed in the green light, the future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther."

Edited: "Gatsby believed in . . . the future that year by year recedes before us (Fitzgerald 189)."

4. You may add a word or phrase of your own enclosed in square brackets [] in order to clarify a word in the quotation.

"He [Jean de La Fontaine] tried to practice law, but he found poetry much more intelligible (Durant 144)."