



How to Quote: MLA

Quoting effectively is an essential skill for academic writing. This handout is a guide for introducing, explaining, and analyzing quotes in MLA format.

Key Guidelines for Quoting

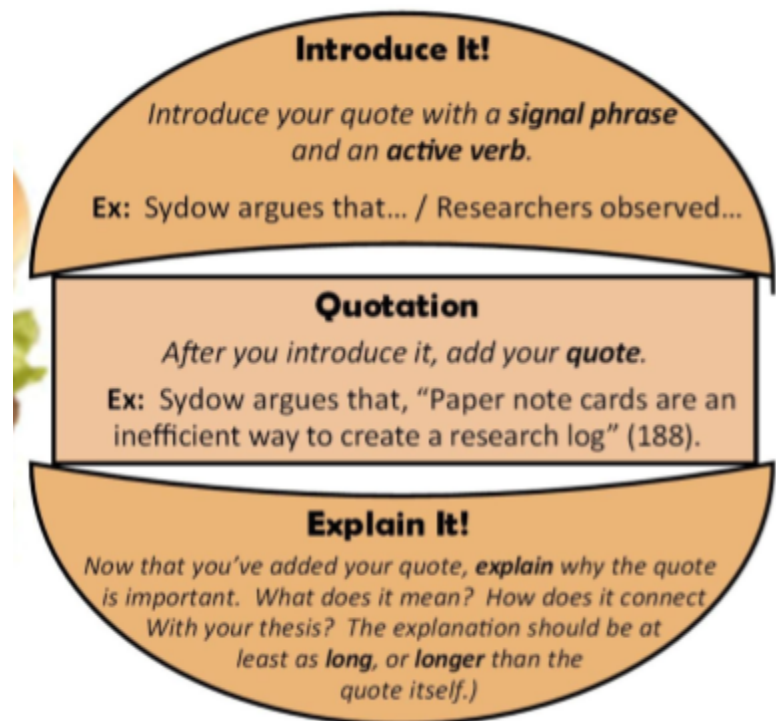
1. Be Intentional

- Use quotes that are directly relevant to your argument. For literary analysis, use quotes from the literature itself to support your claims.

2. Quotes Should Not Stand Alone

- Always introduce, explain, and **analyze** each quote.
 - **Prepare the Reader:** Introduce the quote with a signal phrase or a colon and provide context.
 - **Connect the Quote:** Explain how the quote supports your argument.

The Quote Sandwich



Introducing Quotes in MLA Format

- Always introduce the author and title before quoting.
- Example: *(Author) in (Title), explains how (Context), stating, “insert quote” (cite).*

Ways to Introduce Quotes

1. X states, “_____.”
2. As the world-famous scholar X explains it, “_____.”
3. As claimed by X, “_____.” **In her article _____, X suggests that “_____.”**
4. X believes that the theory has merit: “_____.”
5. X concurs when she notes, “_____.”

Explaining Quotes

After introducing and inserting the quote, explain its significance:

- Summarize, elaborate, or illuminate the importance of the quote.

Ways to Explain Quotes

- *In other words, X asserts _____.*
- *In arguing this claim, X argues that _____.*
- *X is insisting that _____.*
- *What X really means is that _____.*
- *The basis of X’s argument is that _____.*

Analyzing Quotes

Your analysis should connect the quote to your argument and topic sentence.

- **Key Questions to Answer:**
 - How does the quote support your thesis?
 - Why is this quote relevant to your paper?

- **Important:** Your analysis should take up more space than the quote itself.

MLA Citation Rules for Quotes

- **General Format:**
 - **Author Mentioned in Sentence:** If the author's name is included in the sentence, only cite the page number in parentheses.
 - Example: *Sydow argues that, "Paper note cards are an inefficient way to create a research log" (188).*
 - **Author Not Mentioned in Sentence:** Include the author's last name and page number in parentheses.
 - Example: *"Paper note cards are an inefficient way to create a research log" (Sydow 188).*
 - **For Both:**
 - Do not use commas or "p."
(not Smith, 24 or Smith p. 24)
 - Place the citation at the end of the sentence, **before the period.**
 - Every in-text citation must match an entry on the Works Cited page.
- **Multiple Authors and Special Cases:**
 - For two authors, list both last names.
(Smith and Jones 45)
 - For three or more authors, use the first author's last name + *et al.*
(Smith et al. 112)
If there is no author, use a shortened title in quotation marks.
("Climate Change and Policy" 6)
 - For online sources without page numbers, use the author's name only.
(Smith)

Block Quotes

For quotes longer than three lines, use a block quote format. Here is an example:

The diagram shows a block quote on page 14. The quote is indented twice from the left margin. The introductory sentence is "As an example, SJ stated:" followed by a colon. The quote itself is a multi-line passage. Annotations include: "End the introductory sentence with a colon" pointing to the colon; "No quotation marks!" pointing to the quote text; "Indent twice" pointing to the left margin; "Continue with the paragraph" pointing to the text following the quote; and "Typically, there would be an in-text citation after the period. However, the author was already introduced at the beginning and this quotation comes from an interview—hence no page number." pointing to the page number 14.

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End the introductory sentence with a colon

As an example, SJ stated:

No quotation marks!

It's more the way people say words and the words that they choose...like we'll use the more "formal" version of the word compared to other people...like we would say "sapadu" (சாபாடு) like "andha sapada poi eduithndu va" (அந்த சாபாட பொய எடுத்திண்டு வா) like "go get food," but someone from a different caste or subsect would say "Andha sorru poi eduithndu va" (அந்த சொர பொய எடுத்திண்டு வா)... "sorru" is more like the colloquial kind of like street language... 'lower class' way of speaking.

Indent twice

Continue with the paragraph

Typically, there would be an in-text citation after the period. However, the author was already introduced at the beginning and this quotation comes from an interview—hence no page number.

As seen through this example, caste can influence word choice and morphology. From SJ's

Avoid overusing long quotes. Ensure every sentence contributes to your argument.

Summary:

- Be intentional in choosing quotes.
- Avoid over-summarizing; **prioritize your analysis.**
- Begin by introducing the author and title.
- Then explain the quote by summarizing, elaborating, or illuminating its key points.
- Finally, analyze the quote's significance and connect it back to your thesis or topic sentence.

By following these steps, you can effectively integrate quotes into your writing while adhering to MLA format!