

## Quoting and Paraphrasing in MLA Style

### How do I place a quote in my text?

- A quotation is a word-for-word repetition of written or spoken language.
- The quote must be in quotation marks: “This is a quote.”
- You may introduce a full-sentence quote: John Smith states, “Quotes are fun.”
  - Put a comma before the quote.
  - Capitalize the first letter of the quote.
  - Put the period within the quotation marks (unless there is a citation).
- You may also use a partial quote as part of your own sentence: Smith believes they are even “gloriously exciting.”
  - No comma or capitalization.
- You could also just have a full sentence quote by itself: “Are you happy now?”

### How do I cite a quote?

- For most sources, you must include the author’s last name and the page number with the quote (internet articles do not need page numbers).
- The page number, if there is one, will always be in parentheses at the end of the quote: Smith wonders “if you are confused yet” (15).
- *Signal Phrase*: The author’s name can be introduced in the sentence itself: John Smith exclaims, “Oh, geez!” (20).
- *Parenthetical Citation*: Or the author’s name can be in the parentheses at the end of the quote: “I’m starting to get the hang of this” (Smith 20).
- See how the period now goes after the parentheses.

### How do I paraphrase?

- Paraphrasing is restatements of written or spoken language in your own words.
- Reintroduce the author’s name to clarify any ambiguity to the reader.
- To avoid plagiarism, it is best to set the original source aside and then write your understanding of the author’s ideas.
- Paraphrases and summaries do not use quotation marks.

### How do I cite paraphrased information?

- Even though the information is in your own words, you still **MUST** cite it.
- The citation works the same as a quote where you either need the author and page number in the sentence or in parentheses at the end of the sentence.
- *Signal Phrase*: The author’s name can be introduced in the sentence itself: John Smith believes using sources is a wonderful idea (20).
- *Parenthetical Citation*: Or the author’s name can be in the parentheses at the end of the sentence: Students will be able to integrate quotes into their papers smoothly from now on (Smith 20).
- If everything in one paragraph is paraphrased from the same source, you can just cite it once at the end of the paragraph.

## MLA Quoting and Paraphrasing Practice

1. *What Washington needs is adult supervision.* – Barack Obama

a. Quote the above statement with a signal phrase. Cite and punctuate correctly:

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b. Quote the above statement with a parenthetical citation. Cite and punctuate correctly:

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c. Paraphrase the above statement using either a signal phrase or parenthetical citation:

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2. *The American people . . . want change. They want big ideas and big reform.* – Rahm Emanuel

a. Quote the above statement with a signal phrase. Cite and punctuate correctly:

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b. Quote the above statement with a parenthetical citation. Cite and punctuate correctly:

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c. Paraphrase the above statement using either a signal phrase or parenthetical citation:

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3. *Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.* – John Lennon

a. Quote the above statement with a signal phrase. Cite and punctuate correctly:

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b. Quote the above statement with a parenthetical citation. Cite and punctuate correctly:

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c. Paraphrase the above statement using either a signal phrase or parenthetical citation:

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