YORKWAC Infobase

Quoting Evidence from Sources

Quoting is one of the ways you can incorporate evidence from a source into your research paper or other writing assignment.

Quoting means *using the exact words of the source,* rather than a summary or paraphrase in your own words. This is also called a *direct quote.*

To incorporate a direct quote effectively, you need three things:

1. *Introduction*

   This tells the reader that a quote is coming up.

2. *Quoted text*

   This is the actual text reproduced exactly as it appears in the original source.

3. *Explanation of relevance*

   This tells the reader why the quoted text is important for your argument.

In the following example, the introduction is marked *(1),* the quoted text is marked *(2)* and the explanation of relevance is marked *(3).* (The numbers are just for clarification; you would not use them in an actual writing assignment.)

> *(1)* In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson includes a list of god-given rights, including *(2)* "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." *(3)* These words indicate an important shift in emphasis from the First Continental Congress of 1774, which had issued a declaration of rights in which stated that the colonists were entitled to life, liberty and property.

How to Format Direct Quotes

Brief quotes should be set off from the surrounding text with double quotation marks as in the example above. If your quoted text is more than four lines, use a *block quote.* A block quote begins on a new line, doesn't have quotation marks, and is indented about one inch from the left margin.

Quoted evidence must come from reliable *sources* and be properly *cited*.

In addition to using direct quotes, you can also incorporate evidence by *paraphrasing* or *summarizing*.

For more information about how to incorporate evidence from sources, consult the following Infosheets in the **YORKWAC Infobase**:

Infosheet #17, Ways to Use Sources or Incorporate Evidence
Infosheet #19, Paraphrasing Evidence from Sources
Infosheet #20, Summarizing Evidence from Sources