**Direct Quotes**

The proper way to use direct quotes in a research paper can be simplified into four parts.

1. Introducing who/what you are quoting in your own words
2. Providing the quote word for word within quotation marks
3. Providing the citation in proper MLA format
4. Immediately elaborating on why the quote supports what you are trying to say.

**Example:**

Suppose you were using a direct quote from an internet article written by James Fisher, a university professor and expert on educational technology. The title of the article is “Students and Technology”. The quote you want to use is:

* Students today do not just prefer technology based education, they require it.

Using the four part method above, this direct quote used in your paper might look something like:

James Fisher, a professor of educational technology at the University of Boston, recently commented on the issue. “Students today do not just prefer technology based education, they require it” (Fisher). This demonstrates that student learning has changed due to technology, so teachers must change as well.

OR

A prominent professor at the University of Boston recently stated, “Students today do not just prefer technology based education, they require it” (Fisher).This demonstrates that student learning has changed due to technology, so teachers must change as well.

Please note that the sentences before and after the direct quote are **your words only**.

If the above quote were from a book, everything would remain the same, except for the in text citation. Suppose the quote came from a book, on page 95. Just like the above two examples, the in text citation with a book will change depending on whether or not the author is mentioned by name prior to the quote. Depending on that, the citation will be one of the following:

If the author’s name was not mentioned: (Fisher, 95)

If the author’s name was mentioned: (95)

Finally, remember that in the case of missing information, the in text citation ALWAYS contains whatever the FIRST piece of information available from the source on the works cited page is. So if there is an author, the in text citation will have the author’s name. If there is no author, you will move to article name and put that in the citation in proper format. If there is no author or article name, you will move to the title of the website and put that in the citation in proper format. ***If none of this information is available, you should not use the source!*** In general, direct quotes should come from articles that have an author listed.

A recent article on CNN.com demonstrated the need for technology. “Students today do not just prefer technology based education, they require it” (“Students and Technology”). This demonstrates that student learning has changed due to technology, so teachers must change as well.

It is important to remember that direct quotations should be limited, especially if they are lengthy. The primary reason to provide a direct quotation is to show the reader that experts agree with what you are saying. If you use too many direct quotations, the paper ceases to be your own.

Finally, please keep in mind that a variety of citation changes are necessary based on different elements of the source (missing author, multiple authors, indirect quotations, source types, editors, etc.). It is impossible for all of these to be covered on one handout. It is your responsibility to determine how to properly cite your sources using the Purdue MLA website: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

**Paraphrased Information**

Using in text citations for paraphrased information is just as important as using it for direct quotations. There are a few rules to remember when using in text citations for paraphrased information.

1. You will only use citations for paraphrased information that is specific, not general knowledge.

If you say “Martin Luther King Jr. was a good man”, you will not provide a citation after that sentence. If you say “In December of 1959 Martin Luther King Jr. gave up his seat on a bus so that a young girl could make it home in time to celebrate Christmas with her family”, you will.

1. Specific facts and statistics must have a citation.

If you say “35% of teens have driven recklessly at one point or another” you need a citation, even if you say it in a way that is not the exact wording the author of the article you obtained that information from used.

1. Your paper should not be overrun with citations following paraphrases. Use citations when you must and when it will add legitimacy to your claims. Do not just throw in citations to lengthen the paper.

Elephants are large (Smith, 37) land mammals (Jackson, 45). Elephants' teeth are very different from those of most other mammals (Thomas, 18). Unlike most mammals (Williams, 315), which grow baby teeth and then replace them with a permanent set of adult teeth (Krout, 113), elephants have cycles of tooth rotation throughout their entire lives (Rolan, 223)

1. The point of citations is to give credit to an outside person/work that provided ADDITIONAL AND SPECIFIC information you have used in the paper TO SUPPORT YOUR THESIS.

If an author from a source you are using is simply making a broad/general/vague statement that provides nothing specific or new, you should not use that information. This is your paper. You can think! You can write! Your voice must remain the primary voice of the paper!

1. It is not necessary to introduce paraphrased information the same way you introduce direct quotes.

You can say “75% of people prefer pizza to hamburgers” and then provide the in text citation. This keeps the paper flowing and is the reason the majority of your citations should be paraphrases. Direct quotations need introductions because they are unique and should be far in between.

**Example:**

Suppose you were paraphrasing information from an internet article written by Todd Mcdonald, a historian on the Civil Rights Movement. The title of the article is “Dr. King: No Less Important Today”. The quote you want to use is:

* When asked to name the most important figure of the 1960s, 46% named Martin Luther King Jr.

You could paraphrase this in any of the following ways.

Many people consider Dr. King one of the most important figures of the 1960s (Mcdonald).

Dr. King is one of only a few people who could be considered the most important figure of the 1960s (McDonald).

Almost half of the people who participated in a recent poll said Martin Luther King Jr. was the most important figure of the 1960s (McDonald).

Remember, the MLA rule for in text citations of electronic documents is this:

* Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name).