

Quotations

Quotations introduce other peoples' words into conversation with our ideas. Quotes establish our credibility as authors, support our ideas, or create a foundation for us to pose counterpoints to the ongoing conversation about a subject. Some people we might quote are experts in our field, researchers, and "big-name" theorists that drive inquiries in our academic fields today.

How do we effectively introduce quotes into our paper?

Introducing a Quotation

Direct Quotes

Use signal phrases like:

- According to X, "
- In X's words, "
- X, in their article Y, says, "
- X's research/theory/opinion asserts, "

Signal phrases like this introduce quotes and stress the importance of the person you're quoting. Another way to introduce quotes with a signal phrase is by stating **the author** followed by an **action verb** to situate *who* said *what*:

- X says,
- X states,
- X believes,
- X argues,
- X remarks,
- X writes,
- X observes,
- etc.



Although this way of introducing quotes is brief and effective, limit how many times you use signal phrases to introduce quotes. Too many signal phrases can make the paper feel redundant or weak.

Blended Quotes

Blended quotes are a little more complex than direct quotes. Instead of using the author's name and an action verb, you'll blend the author's words with the language of your sentence. In other words, the quote should continue your sentence in a grammatically correct way.

For example: "The Persian jester Obeyd Zakani was considered a 'kind of poet-jester' (Otto 35)."