

Approaches to sources

- Think of using quotes as swaddling an infant. You want your words and explanation to wrap around the quote.
- Your words should give clear context and explanation/analysis. You should always introduce quotes.
- The quote shouldn't just repeat what you already said, it should enrich your ideas, give context or supporting evidence.
- Quotes should be specific.

Good: His success comes from being a “deceptive” and “talented liar” (Duval 253) who is also “selfish” (Littmann 7), “devious” (Jacoby 238), and “cunning” (Schulzke 41) with “advantages proffered by secrets and spycraft... whose power resides in [the] ability to broker information to more prominent players” (Duval 257). Political philosophers have observed how Baelish is the “story’s most distinctly Machiavellian [figure],” who lacks military power, but “holds great influence over the court” (Schulzke 43), which was reiterated by Martin in an interview about Machiavelli (Beaton 199).

Good: On another occasion, Tyrion comments on how elegant he looked, and Baelish responds, “I’m wounded. I strive to look elegant every day” (*A Clash of Kings* 270). Baelish is always concerned with his outward appearance, due to the thin line he is walking between the elegance of nobles and the materiality of class.

Bad: “Mimicry is constructed around an *ambivalence*; in order to be effective, mimicry must continually produce its slippage, its excess, its difference” (Bhabha 86, emphasis in original). Mimicry is constructed around ambivalence and much produce slippage, as Bhabha suggests.

Bad: Petyr Baelish is a cunning rhetorician that tends to get out of trouble, but also causes chaos in his wake. “Baelish retreated like a wounded dog and looked beaten, ‘I’m sorry my lord. All I ever did was to secure the safety of your children. Your children are important, are they not?’” (GOT). Baelish is also great with money.

Tips for quoting sources:

It is good to introduce the author in the sentence:

Michel Foucault explains how objects serve as markers of exchange, which makes for an unpredictable exchange: “any object, even one that has no price, can serve as money; but it must, nevertheless, possess peculiar properties of representation and capacities for analysis that will permit it to establish relations of equality and difference between different kinds of wealth” (191-2).

If you do not introduce the author, make sure they are in the in-text citation. You do not have to reintroduce authors every time you use them; use their last name to call back to them.

Foucault emphasizes an object in an agreement for exchange, but he makes it clear that anything can be exchanged if there is a perceived value.

Avoid starting a paragraph with a quote. The first sentence should be the topic sentence that introduces the reader to what will be discussed in the paragraph.

Only quote what is relevant. Make sure you are not quoting generalized ideas. If a quote is really long, but the entire quote isn't relevant, use an ellipsis:

Michel Foucault explains how objects serve as markers of exchange, which makes for an unpredictable exchange: “any object, even one that has no price, can serve as money... [as] different kinds of wealth” (191-2). Foucault emphasizes an object in an agreement for exchange, but he makes it clear that anything can be exchanged if there is a perceived value.

If it isn't common knowledge, you should cite that information.

Don't chain/list citations.