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# MLA Quote Integration

Merrimack College Writing Center  
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# What's the Problem?

- In writing our research, we rely unnecessarily and too heavily on quotation. Why?
  - We do not understand how the different strategies of source integration forward argument.
  - We have difficulty understanding the reading.
  - We are afraid of accidentally plagiarizing.

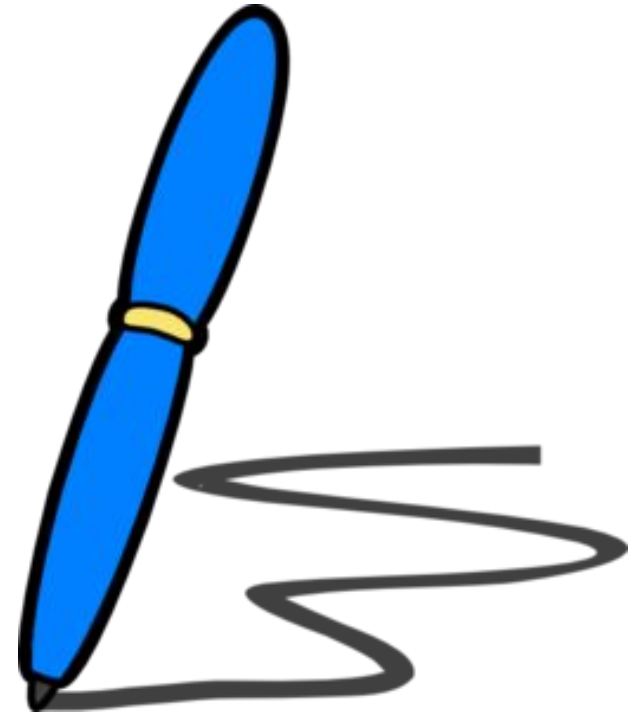
# How Do We Fix It?

- Learn the four methods of text source integration: summary, paraphrase, **quotation (the focus of this presentation)**, and synthesis.
- Learn when and why to use quotation in MLA.
- Learn a process for quotation that minimizes the risk of plagiarism.

# Transitioning into and out of Quotes

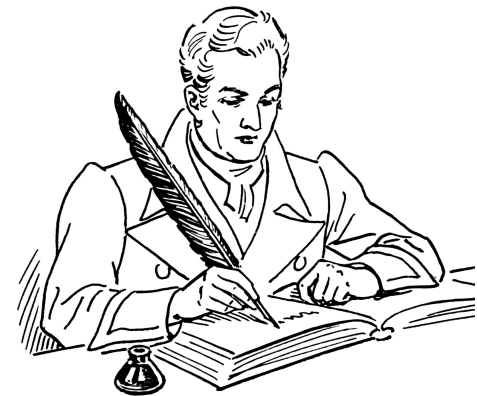
- Author
- Authority
- *Quote*
- (In-text) Citation
- Explanation/Follow-up

Important note to keep in mind:  
When quoting, the student is transitioning from their words to someone else's then back to their own



# Author

- Every quote has someone who said it/wrote it
- When quoting, introduce the author/speaker by name
  - Example: **Isabela Moreno**, the Writing Fellow for the 12 pm class, said ...

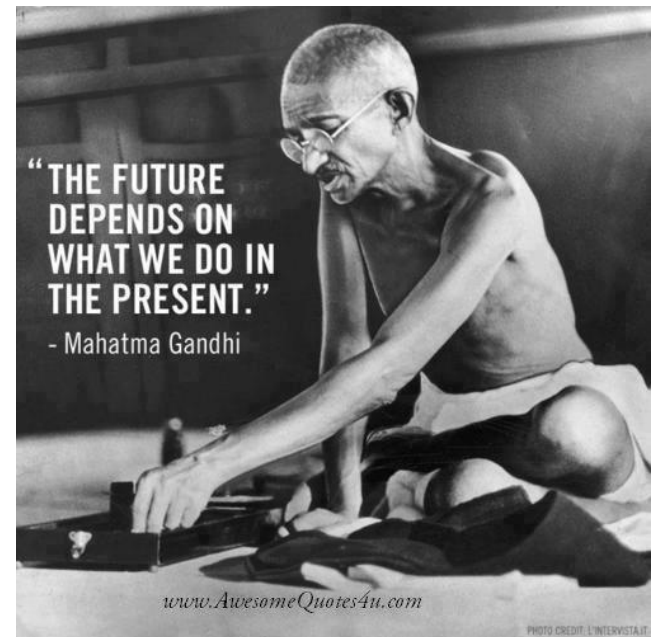
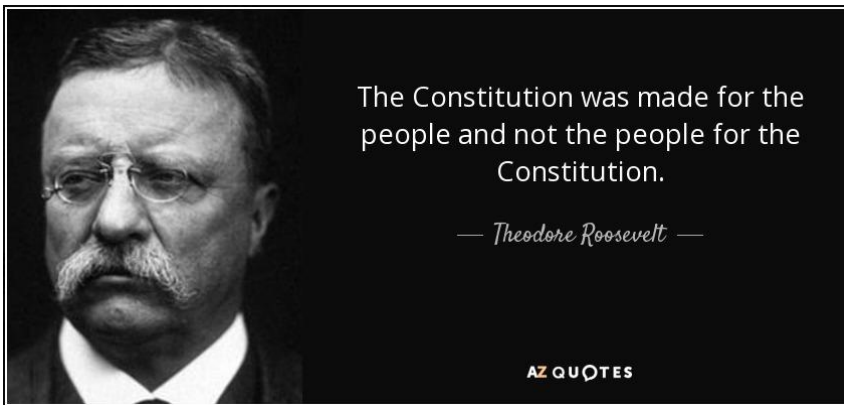


# Who is the Author/What is their Authority?

- Every author/speaker needs to be qualified to say what their saying
  - Example: Isabela Moreno, **the Writing Fellow for the 12 pm class**, said, “When writing a commentary and including quotes, it is important to cite your sources” (Moreno).
- Is she qualified to say this?
  - Who wouldn't be?

# When Should You Be Quoting?

- When the author said something so perfectly you could not possibly say it any better.
- When the author is an expert in the subject.
- To recreate important statements of information and policies.



# Explanation/Follow-Up

- After quoting someone, to make sure that you and the reader understand what is being said, you must explain it in your own words.
- If the quote is self-explanatory, you just need to follow-up with your own words.
  - Example: Isabela Moreno, the Writing Fellow for the 12 pm class, said, “When writing a commentary and including quotes, it is important to cite your sources to avoid plagiarism” (Moreno). **Avoiding plagiarism and citing quotes is not just important when writing a commentary, but any other piece where you use someone else’s words.**





# In-text Citations

- Make sure that what goes in the parentheses of your in-text citation matches your actual citation
- Also make sure your punctuation is outside of your in-text citation
- Example: Isabela Moreno, the Writing Fellow for the 12 pm class, said, “When writing a commentary and including quotes, it is important to cite your sources to avoid plagiarism” **(Moreno)**.

Moreno, Isabela. "Writing 101" Writing 101. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2017.



# Examples

The way that animals have been treated is unjust, and according to PETA, the largest animal rights organization in the world, “Every day in countries around the world, animals are fighting for their lives. They are burned, blinded, poisoned, and cut up alive in the name of ‘science’; they are electrocuted, strangled, and skinned alive so that people can parade around in their coats; and worse” (PETA). The sound of this is absolutely horrific, but the way society lets it be can be understood through several ideas and theories within the realm of social justice and oppression.

PETA. "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA): The Animal Rights Organization." *PETA*.

N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2017.

Who is the author?

What is their authority?

Is the quote necessary?

Is the in-text citation right?

Is there a good follow-up?

# Examples

Calvert and Tan did a study on youths and violent video games. “These games increase youth's heart rate, can cause them to get dizzy or nausea. Also causes kids to have more aggressive thoughts.”(Danielle Dai and Amanda Fry) That doesn't mean that every kid is going act out like this or have aggressive behavior.

[my.vanderbilt.edu/developmentalpsychologyblog/2014/04/effect-of-video-games-on-child-development/](http://my.vanderbilt.edu/developmentalpsychologyblog/2014/04/effect-of-video-games-on-child-development/).

Who is the author?

What is their authority?

Is the quote necessary?

Is the in-text citation right?

Is there a good follow-up?

## How can this be fixed?

# Examples

According to a study on youths and violent video games done by Calvert and Tan, researchers in adolescent behavior, “These games increase youth's heart rate, can cause them to get dizzy or nauseous, also can also causes kids to have more aggressive thoughts”(Dai). Although their findings state that violent video games can lead to more aggressive thoughts, thoughts do not always equal action. There are several others factors that may need to be involved for games to result in aggressive behavior.

Dai, Danielle. “Effect of Video Games on Child Development.” *Developmental Psychology at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt,*

Who is the author?

What is their authority?

Is the quote necessary?

Is the in-text citation right?

Is there a good follow-up?

# Resources (Grammar and MLA Formatting)

- Purdue Owl
  - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
- Grammar Girl
  - [grammar-girl](http://grammar-girl.com)
- EasyBib
  - <http://www.easybib.com>
- Bibme
  - <http://www.bibme.org/citation-guide/mla/website/>



# Source Citation and Documentation

Authors: Isabela Moreno & Marisa Thompson

Title: MLA Quote Integration

Year: 2017

Web Page: Merrimack College Writing Center

URL: [http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/academic\\_support/academic\\_success\\_center/writing\\_center/](http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/academic_support/academic_success_center/writing_center/)





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