

Integrating Quotations

Use quotations when quoting *any* source, including but not limited to books, articles, magazines, web sites, etc.; otherwise you are plagiarizing. Quotations should act partly as support for your argument and partly as attention to the author's specific use of language. If you could easily paraphrase the quote or you can hear the quote used in common speech, it is not a good example to use in your paper. The quote should focus on strong, distinctive language or phrasing that ultimately strengthens your argument.

Embedded quotations, quotations woven into the author's original sentence, are the most eloquent and most frequent use of quotations in scholarly writing.

Example: In Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, the narrator attributes Fyodor Pavlovich Karamazov's first wife's romantic inclination as a wish "to assert her feminine independence" (Dostoevsky 8).

Changes: Changing verb tenses, subjects, or grammar within a quotation is generally not permitted; however, if you want your paper to stay in first-person voice, you wish to switch a pronoun, or you need to add additional information for clarity's sake, put the change in brackets:

Original: Dostoevsky's intrusive narrator states that "people even wicked people, are far more naïve and simple-hearted than one generally assumes" (Dostoevsky 9).

Change: Dostoevsky's intrusive narrator states that "people even wicked people [the Karamazovs], are far more naïve and simple-hearted than one generally assumes" (Dostoevsky 9).

Omissions: Omitting a part of a quotation is noted by using an ellipsis. Even if one word is omitted, an ellipsis is still necessary; otherwise, you are misquoting and, therefore, plagiarizing.

Example: Original: Women, who are underrepresented in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, does devote a chapter to the women of faith, noted initially as the "Khokhlakov ladies, who were also waiting for the elder, but in quarters set aside for gentlewomen, had come out to the porch as well" (Dostoevsky 46).

Change: Women, who are underrepresented in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, does devote a chapter to the women of faith, noted initially as the "Khokhlakov ladies, who were also waiting for the elder...[and] had come out to the porch as well" (Dostoevsky 46).

Quotations within quotations, such as quoting dialogue, in texts published in America use the following format:

In a conversation with his brother, Alyosha Karamazov, regarding free will versus fate, Ivan Karamazov claims that he is "not talking about the suffering of grown-ups, they ate the apple and to hell with them" (Dostoevsky 242); rather, he discusses the lack of justification of punishment between adults and children.

Block quotations, quotations of a four-line or longer passage, follow a different format. They are not enclosed in quotation marks; they are off-set by indenting the entire passage one inch from the left margin in MLA format (1/2 inch in APA format) with double-spacing maintained throughout the passage.