

Integrating Sources

What portion of a text should I quote?

- Would your paper lose anything if you paraphrased instead of quoted?
- Most people who begin researched writing quote **far too much**. It's tempting to pay too much homage to experts.
- Knowing *when* to quote the experts and *how* to integrate their ideas establishes your role as an authoritative writer.

An example of too much quoting:

According to the United Nations *Human Development Report 2002*, "The number of wars between countries has dropped considerably... But civil conflicts are more damaging than ever. In the 1990s about 3.6 million people died in wars within states, and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons increased 50%." "Fighting between and within states also causes massive refugee flows and displaces populations. At the end of 2000 more than 12 million were refugees."

Ronald J. Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*.

When is it important to quote?

- When the language is especially vivid or striking.

Today, barbarism has taken over many city streets, or people fear it has, which comes to much the same thing in the end. "I live in a quiet residential area," says a friend of mine who is hunting another place to live. "The only disturbing sound at night is the occasional scream of someone being mugged." It does not take many incidents of violence on a city street... to make people fear the streets.

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of American Cities*

What do you notice?

- The quote is from someone's personal experience and is told vividly.
- The quote does not detract from Jacobs' own voice.
- Since Jacobs doesn't live in her friend's neighborhood, she is not the expert on it, so she lets her source speak for him or herself.

Consider another example of striking language:

The soaring birthrate reinforced the notion that a woman's place was in the home as tender of the hearth and guardian of the children. "Of all the accomplishments of the American woman," [a 1950s-era] *Life* cover story proclaimed, "the one she brings off with the most spectacular success is having babies."

George Brown Tindall and David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*.

What do you notice?

- Quoting a primary source is essential for representing the time period and culture.
- The author integrates the quote by making an observation about the time and then, without further ado, lets the time period speak for itself.
 - As long as the reader can follow the logic, simplicity is better than a long-winded introduction to the quote!
- Tindall and Shi start the quote and then mention the source. This hooks the reader more than saying, "According to a *Life* cover story..."

When is it important to quote?

- When there are two sides and you want to let each speak for itself.

Some of the research currently being conducted at Rockefeller could lead to advances in the fight against heart ailments, Parkinson's disease, tuberculosis and other afflictions. "We're trying to make animal life, human life and plant life better, and unfortunately [animal-based research] is all we have now," veterinarian Karen Sokol says.

But this opinion is not shared by everyone. A small, but growing minority of Americans believe that using animals to meet even the most pressing human needs is cruel and unnecessary. "On a moral level it's all unacceptable because you can't justify gain based on exploitation," says Ingrid Newkirk, co-founder of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

David Masci, "Fighting over Animal Rights: Has public support for the movement peaked?"

What do you notice?

- Masci introduces both sides, each in a separate paragraph.
- Each source briefly makes a case for her own perspective, and we can imagine them in debate with each other since their views are so different.

When is it important to quote?

- When information is technical and expertise is necessary.

A study by Consumers Union found that four out of five sunscreens that claimed to be nano-free actually contained nanoparticles of titanium dioxide and/or zinc oxide, two compounds that help protect against ultraviolet radiation.

"Size matters. Materials at the nanoscale should be considered new particles and have to go through new safety assessments," says Michael Hansen, senior staff scientist at Consumers Union. "Right now, it's assumed that if a material has been tested for bulk applications, it's safe. But when you reduce things to such small sizes, their behavior and surface area can change drastically. You can't assume that something safe at the macro scale is safe at the nano scale."

What do you notice?

- This expert is able to take complex information, make it understandable, and demonstrate the need for new testing.

When is it important to quote?

- When you want to analyze the words and phrasing.

Lockwood reveals that the fact that people, and especially women, exist for him only as texts to contemplate and, in this way, to appropriate for his private fantasy life:

While enjoying a month of fine weather at the sea-coast, I was thrown into the company of a most fascinating creature, a real goddess in my eyes, as long as she took no notice of me...

...He gives us this single bit of background just as he is about to repeat the same scene several times over, first with Catherine Heathcliff and then with the ghost of her mother cast as the "fascinating creature."

Nancy Armstrong, "Imperialist Nostalgia and Wuthering Heights."

What do you notice?

- Armstrong has already begun analyzing the quote from *Wuthering Heights* before she presents it.
- The quote then supports Armstrong's argument that this woman is a text to Lockwood: fascinating as long as she does not return his gaze.
- After using the quotation, Armstrong analyzes what it means in the context of the rest of the book.

Bringing it all together—

Criteria for the choice to quote:

- When the language is especially vivid or striking.
- When there are two sides and you want to let each speak for itself.
- When information is technical and expertise is necessary.
- When you want to analyze the words and phrasing.

Consider Sider's quote again:

According to the United Nations *Human Development Report 2002*, "The number of wars between countries has dropped considerably... But civil conflicts are more damaging than ever. In the 1990s about 3.6 million people died in wars within states, and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons increased 50%." "Fighting between and within states also causes massive refugee flows and displaces populations. At the end of 2000 more than 12 million were refugees."

What do you notice?

- Sider quotes information he could easily paraphrase. There is no special wording, and the information is not so technical he could not rephrase it.
- Instead of integrating his sources into his own rich writing, quotes are back to back (never, EVER EVER do this!).
- Instead of seeking a way to further his argument while introducing the quote, Sider opts for “according to....” It’s good that we know where the first quote comes from, but you will need to seek stronger ways of introducing quotes.

Works Cited

Armstrong, Nancy. "Imperialist Nostalgia and *Wuthering Heights*." *Wuthering Heights (Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism)*. Ed. Linda H. Peterson. 1847. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003. 430-450.

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*Look in *Rules for Writers*, page 419, for more information on integrating sources.

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