Integrating Quotations and Paraphrases

Introduction of Quotations

Introduce the quotation or paraphrase by setting it in context. For a nonfiction source, identify the author the first time you cite the source. For a literary source, identify the speaker or writer and the position of the quoted piece in its work for every quotation. There are three ways to introduce quotations or paraphrases:

1. You can use a **full sentence** followed by a **colon** to introduce a quotation.
   - **MLA:** Economist Grant Houston lays the blame on bad government policy: “subsidies to corn growers keep the price of corn artificially low” (122).
   - **CHICAGO:** Educator Dr. Calvin Cutter stresses that stools should not be used in schools: “chairs need to be substituted because they help posture by supporting the back.”¹
   - **APA:** The fossil evidence for human evolution is consistent with the idea promulgated by Darwin: “the tree of life is a branching one with numerous lineages, not a single evolutionary lineage from ancient to modern” (Johanson, 2009, p. 278).

2. You can use a **lead-in** naming the author or character, followed by a **comma**.
   - **MLA:** According to Sanchez, parents are furious about the ban on bake sales at schools (“PTA Focuses on Food” 16).  
     [No quotation marks in this example because it’s a paraphrase.]
   - **CHICAGO:** Southworth announces, “Alas for weakness, willfulness and passion! They, and not wise counsels gained the day.”²
   - **APA:** The renowned Russian geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky once remarked, “All species are unique, but humans are unquest” (Johanson, 2009, p. 275).

3. You can also begin a **sentence with your own words** and complete it with quoted words. In this case, do not use a comma before the quotation.
   - **MLA:** Houston argues that “tariffs on imported sugar unfairly subsidize US sugar growers” (248).
   - **CHICAGO:** Again, whether such agreement is possible can be found out only by a “full and frank expression of opinion on points of faith and conscience, before marriage as well as after.”³
   - **APA:** Johanson (2009) proposed that if the primate “was using its hands to make and wield tools, it was, in all likelihood, walking upright” (p.151 ).

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Block Quotations

Set off a long quotation ("block quotation") by beginning a new line and indenting the body of the quotation in from the left margin of your text. Block quotations are not surrounded by quotation marks. For MLA and APA formats, put the period before the parenthetical citation instead of after.

MLA - A prose quotation of more than 50 words should be double-spaced and indented by 1 inch:

Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island: great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too.

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Chicago - A prose quotation of five or more lines should be single-spaced and indented by ½ inch:

In the beginning, however, she admires him, as Graves describes:

The loved one then appears as he never will again, for we see him not as he is, but as imagination has fondly pictured him. We worship a creation of our own fancy, and forget the one we idolize is a being of earth and must share the frailties and errors of mortality. We vainly dream that every virtue and gift of character and intellect are centered in him and regard him as the living prototype of every favorite hero of history or romance.⁴

APA - A quotation of more than 40 words of prose should be double-spaced and indented by ½ inch:

Louis reported on two dozen bones of a juvenile male hominid at Olduvai dubbed OH7:

Its large incisors and smallish molars and premolars distinguished it from australopithecines, as did its humanlike hand and foot bones. But what most impressed Louis and his collaborators was their specimen’s cranial capacity of an estimated 674 cubic centimeters – roughly 50 percent higher than the australopithecine average. (Johanson, 2009, p. 188)