

Why You Quote:

To add authority:

- Credible sources can reinforce and/or validate an idea. Readers are more likely to trust a writer's ideas if they are supported by evidence.
Workers received terrible wages: Most workers earned "20 to 40 percent less than the minimum deemed necessary for a decent life" (Connors 42).

To deepen thinking:

- Sources can also expand and deepen a writer's own ideas.
The human psyche is very complex. In *A Little Book on the Human Shadow*, Robert Bly argues that human psychology is composed of the ego and the shadow. The shadow, by definition, "is the part of ourselves that is hidden from us" (47). (Continue to analyze the quote's meaning and relevance.)

To transition from idea to idea:

- Quotations can serve as "doorways" to lead the writer and reader toward a new idea/point. A quote can transition from point A to point B by redirecting the reader's focus.
She realized that "composing is a highly complex problem-solving process" (Rose 86), but she had no idea how to begin this process. (This transition shifts the reader's focus from the complexity of the composing process to one writer's struggle with it.)

How You Quote:

Introduction or "set-up" (before the quote):

- Introduce the author, character, and/or work being quoted.
In "The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me," Sherman Alexie asserts that "I loved those books, but I also knew that love had only one purpose. I was trying to save my life" (14).

Explanation or interpretation (after the quote):

- Include your own interpretation and explanation of a quote's meaning and/or relevance.
"I loved those books, but I also knew those books served one purpose. I was trying to save my life" (Alexie 14). Alexie credits reading with helping him survive a disadvantaged childhood.

Don't over quote:

- Use only the most essential textual elements to support your claim. Sometimes only a few words or a phrase are needed.
Mike Rose points out that the "social context of error" in students' papers is rarely considered or studied (208).
- Avoid block quotes (quotations more than full 4 lines of text [MLA] or 40 words [APA]). Block quotes require extensive analysis and generally are not advisable for undergraduate-level papers.