

and standard numerals for the line (V.ii.73-74), or 2) simply use standard numerals for all three (5.2.73-74). I prefer the first, but the second is increasingly becoming the default.

In religious texts, cite the book, then the chapter and verse with a colon between the two. Examples: Surat 'Āli `Imrān 3:2 or Exodus 20:3.

How to quote from poetry

Use a slash (more properly called a *virgule*-- though nobody will know what you're talking about if you refer to it as such) to indicate line breaks.

Example:

Joyce Kilmer writes, "I think that I shall never see / A poem lovely as a tree" (1-2).

but **not**:

Joyce Kilmer writes, "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree" (1-2).

How to cite prose (non-fiction)

There is no difference here from how you cite fiction prose, but I want to stress that in the case of secondary sources you almost always want to use paraphrase, rather than quotation.

The difference between primary and secondary sources is that a primary source is a text that is being analyzed whereas a secondary source is a text that synthesizes primary sources to make an argument. For example, the Declaration of Independence is a primary source (a historical document), but a book about the Revolutionary War is a secondary source (taking into account multiple primary sources and crafting a coherent narrative and argument from what the primary sources reveal).

Keeping this in mind, it should be more obvious why paraphrase would be more appropriate than quotation in a secondary source. You are probably (to one extent or another) going to be doing a close reading of the primary sources (in this class, usually literary texts), but you are probably going to be either citing an isolated fact or discussing an argument that the author makes with a secondary source.

To make a general rule out of this observation, use quotation when the way that a text expresses something is important (because you are going to be drawing specific inferences from the language) and paraphrase when the manner of expression is not important. The (general) exception to this (general) rule is when a secondary text expresses something in a particularly interesting or pithy way. Even then, you probably want to be selective in the amount of text you use.

Examples:

That Amelia achieves her new status by any means necessary is itself a reminder of changing mores in Victorian society, one where striving for success becomes the pre-dominant virtue

(Houghton 183-184), and the poem both satirizes the hypocrisy even as it acknowledges that the attitude (if not the specific circumstances) has become the default (popular piety notwithstanding).

Walter Houghton's *The Victorian Frame of Mind* argues on pages 183-184 that Victorian society was obsessed with social advancement. What is important is this trend that I am using *in support* of my argument about Thomas Hardy's 1866 poem "The Ruined Maid." My argument is about the poem, *not* the history book that I am using *in support* of my analysis; hence I use paraphrase.

If I wanted to use quotation, it would be very selective-- something like this:

That Amelia achieves her new status by any means necessary is itself a reminder of changing mores in Victorian society, one where striving for success becomes the pre-dominant virtue, what historian Walter Houghton calls the "commercial spirit" (183-184). The poem both satirizes the hypocrisy of this new way of thinking even as it acknowledges that the attitude (if not the specific circumstances) has become the default (popular piety notwithstanding).

When to use long quotation format

In this class, the answer is "never" or "almost never." Because the vast majority of the assignments you will generate here will range from a couple of paragraphs to short papers of three to five pages in length, long quotations will look suspiciously like padding more than necessity.

There is also a tendency in developing writing to assume a long quotation "speaks for itself," either needing no further comment or replacing the need to make an original argument. Neither of these is true.

That said, here's how to do it.

If the quote takes more than three lines, use long quote format by using a colon, skipping a line, then indenting the entire block of text (*without* quotation marks), then skipping another line.

Example:

Elena describes the prevailing ethic of her Neapolitan neighborhood in the following manner:

Our childhood [...] was full of violence. Every sort of thing happened, at home and outside, every day, but I don't recall having ever thought that the life we had there was particularly bad. Life was like that, that's all, we grew up with the duty to make it difficult for others before they made it difficult for us (37).

This violence, in turn, is internalized both in physical encounters with others (e.g., husbands beating recalcitrant wives and girlfriends) and the jealous animosity people develop toward rivals (both potential and actual).