

Quoting

A quote is an exact restatement of a text, sometimes using a word, a phrase, or multiple sentences. Direct quotes provide the same exact words from the original text. A direct quote is always the same length as the original and is surrounded by "quotation marks." When quoting, you must acknowledge or give credit to the source by using the original author's name and sometimes a page number if available.

You need to:

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| 1. Read the text multiple times. | 3. Write the direct quote and surround the word, key phrases, or multiple sentences in "quotation marks." |
| 2. Take notes in your own words, or underline, circle, or highlight important words and phrases in the original sentence or paragraph. | 4. When quoting sentences, be sure to: introduce the quote, provide the quote, and explain the quote. See "Integrating Quotes" handout for more details. |

Examples

Original: I hope the church as a whole will meet the challenge of this decisive hour. But even if the church does not come to the aid of justice, I have no despair about the future. I have no fear about the outcome of our struggle in Birmingham, even if our motives are presently misunderstood. We will reach the goal of freedom in Birmingham and all over the nation, because the goal of America is freedom. Abused and scorned though we may be, our destiny is tied up with the destiny of America.

Quoting one word: Toward the conclusion of his letter, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., states that the church, and our country, are at a "decisive" time in our history (277).

Quoting a phrase: He also says that he has "no fear" about the "outcome of our struggle in Birmingham" (277).

Quoting multiple sentences: Dr. King is troubled by the injustice he has suffered but also believes that the United States "will reach the goal of freedom in Birmingham and all over the nation, because the goal of America is freedom. Abused and scorned though we may be, our destiny is tied up with the destiny of America" (277). While reading these sentences, one might assume that the pronouns "we" and "our" are references to the African Americans in the 1960's who were directly and indirectly connected to King. However, on further reading and reflection, one may conclude that King is referring to all Americans, because all of us must bear the weight of the struggle for racial equality together. In the United States, all of our destinies are entangled with the destiny of equality in America.

Source for original text: King, Martin Luther. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." *The Best American Essays of the Century*, edited by Joyce Carol Oates and Robert Atwan, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000, pp. 263-79.