

Long and Short Quotes (MLA & APA)

Quotes are important in writing a research paper. In order to support your argument and provide textual evidence for what you claimed, you need to back it up with quotes from outside sources. This handout exemplifies the process by which you incorporate a block quote according to Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Psychological Association (APA).

Short Quotes:

In MLA, you should use a short quote when you have fewer than four lines. That is, if you have three or fewer, then use quotation marks and incorporate the quote within the paragraph. This example shows that it is a one-line quote; therefore, you need to have quotation marks, and you need to incorporate it within the sentence:

For Whom the Bell Tolls intensifies as Jordan begins thinking about his stay in Madrid, especially his meeting with Karkov, who is “very tired and nervous and he imagined ugly things” (266).

Long Quotes:

In block quotes as mentioned earlier, there should be four lines or more; no need for quotation marks; and the whole quote should be indented 1 inch without ½ inch indentation at the first line:

Sigmund Freud, in *Moses and Monotheism*, maintains that the effect of a traumatic event does not necessarily appear right after the accident, but may take several weeks or months to manifest. He argues:

It may happen that a man who has experienced some frightful accident—a railway collision, for instance—leaves the scene of the event apparently uninjured. In the course of the next few weeks, however, he develops a number of severe psychical and motor symptoms which can only be traced to his shock, the concussion or whatever else it was. (Freud, 1990, XIII: 309)



One inch

As you can see, this quote consists of four lines; it does not have quotation marks, and the whole quote is indented 1 inch. The citation for this quote should come after the period. But in the short quotes, the citation should come before the period.

Block quote: APA

APA requires 40 words or more in order to use a block quote. You should indent the whole quote ½ inch (MLA 1 inch). You do not need to enclose the block quote in quotation marks. Make sure that the block quote is double-spaced. After the last period in the block quote, you provide the proper citation.

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Contact

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