

THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Each citation style (e.g. MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.) has its own rules for dealing with quoted material. For specific information on how to properly handle quotations, consult the appropriate style handbook. The examples for this handout use MLA formatting.

When to Quote

Use direct quotes sparingly. The bulk of your essay should appear in your original language. Sometimes, though, authors have worded something particularly well or can lend a point special authority. A direct quote may be useful in those cases. Any time you use a source's specific language, you quote it. Quotation marks indicate that the wording of the quoted material is "borrowed" from somewhere else.

How to Quote

The examples on this handout will quote from the following source:

Example: *In our analysis, we found that 24% of subjects who self-identified as creamy (E) peanut butter eaters chose not to eat a sandwich prepared with crunchy peanut butter. Several reported, "Crunchy is unacceptable." A much smaller segment of t*

Floating

Quotations should always be attached to your own language, either through attribution or blending. Floating quotes causes a disruption in your paper.

Do not stick quotations on their own between sentences: *Creamy peanut butter is better. "[C]reamy (E) peanut butter eaters chose not to eat...crunchy peanut butter" (Smith 12). Crunchy peanut butter is worse.*

Do not follow a quote with a quote: *"[C]reamy (E) peanut butter eaters chose not to eat...crunchy peanut butter" (Smith 12). "Creamy peanut butter is more acceptable" (12).*

Attributing

You can identify in your own words who provided the quote. Use a comma to mark the entire quoted passage as self-contained and independent from the attribution. As with a sentence, begin quotations like the one above with a capital letter. Alone, the quotes would be complete sentences: