

# Building an Essay from Sources: Quoting Made Easy

By Worth Weller




# What the sources do for you

Your essays must be your own words with your own thoughts and your own voice. However, quoting sources in your essays:

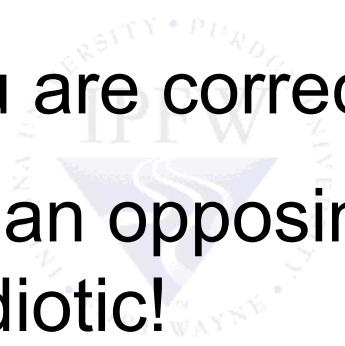
- adds authority to your essays by illustrating that you are presenting informed opinions
- and/or shows your reader exactly how you arrived at a particular thought of your own.

In fact, college essays are usually comprised of three components:

- your own thoughts about something you have read or an issue you are studying
- quotes from your textbook/reading/assignment
- quotes from outside sources



Most of your essay is in your own words, but you use quotes to:

- Back up your own thinking
  - Illustrate your own thinking
  - Prove that you are correct
  - Or reveal that an opposing point of view is completely idiotic!
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You can actually follow a very simple pattern:

- The intro generally will not have a quote in it – it will be entirely your own words
  - After that, you'll start every paragraph with your own words.
- Then, for possibly the second or third sentence of each paragraph, you can use a well-integrated quote to illustrate or prove the topic sentence of that paragraph
  - And finally, you can close off each paragraph with a reflection of your own showing how that quote worked to support your point.

A couple of rules of thumb:

- Do not start a paragraph with a quote
  - Do not end a paragraph with a quote
- Just one or two fairly short quotes per paragraph



A well-integrated quote is a lot like a sandwich:

- On top you have a sentence that is your own thought and summary, setting the context for the quote that you intend to use to prove illustrate point.
- Then you have the quote (with author tag/signal phrase) to back up your thought
- Then on the bottom you have a sentence of your own that reflects back on the quote

# For example:

Midway into his famous “I have a Dream” speech before 100,000 rapt listeners on a scorching hot day on the Washington Mall, King answered critics, who asked why he was not satisfied with the civil rights gains at the time, by detailing a litany of unjust public behavior towards Negroes, ranging from police brutality to disenfranchisement at the voting booth. “We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream,” he sang out in his preacher’s voice (304). It was this stunning metaphor of running water and others like it that catapulted King into national respect and prominence.





Let's back up a bit:

How do you know what to quote?



# Rule One: quote sparingly

- Keep quotes to one sentence or less
- If you have something that is longer, break it up with signal phrases and author tags, so the reader knows why you are quoting it.
  - “Xxx xxx xxxx,” the author wrote, offering justification for his actions. “Xxx xxx xxxx,” he added.

# Rule 2:

## quote just the good stuff

- memorable statements
- especially clear explanations stated by authorities
- controversial arguments in the speaker's/writer's own words

# For example:

King brought the crowd to a cheering roar like the sound of a great cataract when he asserted that the promise of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had not yet been fulfilled. "One hundred years later, the Negro is still anguished in the corners of American Society and finds himself in exile in his own land," **he stated** (303).

King noted that the purpose of the giant gathering on the Mall was to illustrate the exact conditions across the South that make the Negro feel like exiles.

# Summary

- Keep your quotes short
- Just quote the good stuff
- Use author tags and signal phrases with ALL quotes
- Don't start paragraphs with quotes
- Don't end paragraphs with quotes

# Some examples of signal phrases with author tags

According to Jane Doe, "..."

As Jane Doe goes on to explain, "..."

Characterized by John Doe, the society is "..."

As one critic points out, "..."

John Doe believes that "..."

Jane Doe claims that "..."

In the words of John Doe, "..."

# List of Signal phrases

acknowledges, adds, admits, affirms, agrees, argues, asserts, believes, claims, comments, compares, confirms, contends, declares, demonstrates, denies, disputes, emphasizes, endorses, grants, illustrates, implies, insists, notes, observes, points out, reasons, refutes, rejects, reports, responds, states, suggests, thinks, underlines, writes

- Study newspaper articles for good examples of author tags/signal phrases

# Prescription drug use surges among children

By Theresa Agovino  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Christy Olson's daughter developed asthma as a toddler 12 years ago, she was reluctant to put her on prescription drugs.

"I was so worried about side effects. I didn't want to give it to her unless I had to," said Olson, who lives in Rochester, Minn., and is a nurse herself. She decided it was a necessary move, and her daughter, now 15, still takes medicine for the condition.

Olson also has a 13-year-old son who has asthma and is receiving medicine. She suffers from asthma herself.

Medicating her children has at times been a difficult process. Her daughter, when she was 9, had a severe reaction to steroid she was taking and went into shock. It took 18 months of experimenting to find a correct dosage.

Even so, she's more comfortable now than she was at first with having her daughter taking drugs. "I feel differently now because I see that she needs it and she is better because of it," Olson said.

"I know things have gotten better since that time, but drugs are such an important part of treatment that we need more studies," she said.

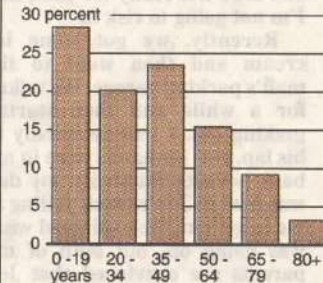
While parents then and now are often nervous about medicating children, it is becoming more common. Use of prescription drugs is growing faster among children than it is among senior citizens and baby boomers, the two traditionally high consumer groups, according to a new study.

Spending on prescription drugs

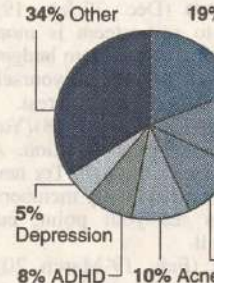
## Drug spending for young outpaces s

Children have surpassed seniors and all other age groups as the growing segment of the prescription drug market, according to a

Spending increases from  
2001 to 2002, by age group



Pediatric drugs purchases  
By condition



NOTE: Figures are based on a survey of 38 million insured people

Source: Medco Health

ly inexpensive, costing an average of \$84.72 per patient each year. That compares to an average expense of \$944.40 per year for people ages 65 to 79.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a government agency, estimates that overall spending on prescription drugs rose 16.4 percent to \$142 billion last year.

Among children, the most-prescribed drugs were for allergies, asthma and infections. Prescriptions for Ritalin and other medicines for neurological and psychological disorders were also substantial — a finding that has renewed concern among some experts who are worried that such drugs may be over-prescribed for children.

dren's prescriptions for ailments would also grow.

"It is good news that are getting treated for cause it means less trips cy rooms and hospitals Robert Epstein, chief n cer of Medco Health.

About 7 percent of cl asthma and 25 percent gies, approximately dou dence 25 years ago, acc Michael Blaiss, a pedia specializes in such ailme

The survey also f spending on antibiotics dren increased 42 per say antibiotic resistance spread problem.

Spending on drugs f deficit hyperactivity d



# Group Exercise

- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate author tags

