

How to Quote and Paraphrase

with *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Purpose of Paraphrasing

- Whenever I discuss a book – in writing or aloud – I need to refer to specific textual moments as evidence for my own assertions.
- Generally, I want to be looking at a specific page (or maybe a few pages) as I formulate my answer.
- I can't include *all* of what the author wrote, so I sum it up in my own words.

What do I paraphrase? That is, how much do I include?

- That depends.
- I might need to give a little background, to introduce my own audience members to the textual moment I will use as evidence for my ideas. Sometimes, I don't.
- When I introduce the evidence, I just identify the who, what, when of the event in one sentence or phrase.



What do I paraphrase? That is, how much do I include?

- When I explain my evidence, I need to zoom in on the important scene, and explain it like it is happening in slow motion.
- Although I sum it up in my own words, I want to give *lots* of detail.
- Sometimes, the author's words will be better than anything I could say. That's when I decide to weave a quote into my writing.

Purpose of Using Quotes

- Quotes are *part* of my evidence – a really important part. Using the author's text makes my own writing stronger. However, quotes are NOT proof. Quotes are added to deepen my analysis of plot references.
- I choose quotes that ADD to my paper because the language says something so powerful it can't be paraphrased.
- I do not choose quotes that convey the exact same information I just gave in my plot reference summary.
- Quotes never, never replace my own analysis of the literature.

How to Weave Quotes

- Choose the most important words of the quote to include.
- Then, weave them into your own writing in the middle or end of a sentence.
- The sentence should make sense on its own. The only way a reader knows you are quoting someone else is because he sees the quotation marks.

Paraphrased Event that needs more detail

→ When they meet, Dill describes going to the movies to see *Dracula* to Jem and Scout, who have never seen a movie. Jem is very impressed.

Quote:

...his mother...had entered his picture in a ...contest and won five dollars. She gave the money to Dill, who went to the picture show twenty times on it.

“Don’t have any picture shows here, except Jesus ones in the courthouse sometimes,” said Jem. “Ever see anything good?”

Dill had seen *Dracula*, a revelation that moved Jem to eye him with the beginning of respect.

Example of Weaving

When they meet, Dill makes an effort to impress his new friends by explaining how “his mother...had entered his picture in a...contest and won five dollars” (Lee 7). He claims he used the money to go “to the picture show twenty times on it” (Lee 7). When Jem reveals that he has only seen “Jesus” movies, Dill declares that he saw *Dracula* (Lee 7). This “revelation...move[s] Jem to eye him with the beginning of respect” (Lee 7).

Example #1

- Original Quote: “Then why did Cecil say you defended n----s? He made it sound like you were runnin’ a still.” Atticus sighed. “I’m simply defending a Negro—his name’s Tom Robinson.”
- Paraphrased with woven quote: When Scout asks why people are saying her father is doing something wrong, he explains that he is “simply defending a Negro” named “Tom Robinson” (Lee 75).

Example #2

- Original quote: See Atticus's closing speech.
- Paraphrased with woven quote: Atticus addresses the jury in a familiar and friendly tone when he reminds them that "The state has not produced one iota of medical evidence" to prove that Tom Robinson had raped Mayella Ewell (Lee 203).

In-text citations

- Of course, I cite every quote from the book!

How To Cite

- In parenthesis, give the author's last name, 1 space, and the page number.
 - Example: (Lee 245)
- Put this after the quote and before the period.
 - Scout introduces Jem's broken arm (Lee 1).
- There are, of course, all kinds of special rules. For now, we'll include author & page # every time, for practice.

Purpose of MLA in-text citation

- to carefully identify someone else's words and ideas, and not claim them as my own
- to identify the original source of the quoted material
- to refer the reader to the correct entry on the Works Cited page

Works Cited

- Yes, my essay outline for *To Kill A Mockingbird* WILL include a proper Works Cited page!!!