

Activity sheet: Quoting directly from print sources

A great deal of academic writing incorporates direct quotations from the sources we use to make our arguments and illustrate our ideas. Often, students have to incorporate several sources into their writing, and it is important to keep track of those sources 1) in order to give proper credit for the words and ideas of others and 2) as a reference for readers who might want to learn more on their own.

In academic writing, when we use the words of an acknowledged expert, we can bolster our argument, so citing the source might provide an additional benefit. In fact, the sources we decide to use say a lot to a trained audience. This is true not only in school, but also in society-at-large. Think of the “expert witness” in a court trial, or the eyewitness accounts in a news story. Even in advertising you will find spokespeople (often celebrities) hired to give a boost to marketing a product. Academic writing works the same way, so choose your sources carefully.

Of course, there are rules to follow once we have our sources and know what we want to write. This assignment gives you an opportunity to practice those skills.

Using the text/materials indicated by your teacher, please complete the items below according to the criteria listed. **For each response, you will include a direct quotation from the text.** Include the citation formatted in the style required by your teacher. (For example, in English classes, you will include MLA in-text citations.) At the end of the activity, list the “Works Cited” or bibliographic entry.

Example using MLA style

In a letter to her sister, Celie claims, “Nobody cook like Shug when she cook” (Walker 189).

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1982.

- 1) For each item, use direct quotations to write two sentences that...
 - a) include the author’s name in the introduction to the quotation
 - b) **do not** include the author’s name in the introduction to the quotation
 - c) introduce the quotation with a colon rather than a comma
 - d) include ellipsis for material you remove from the quoted text
 - e) incorporate brackets around words you have added or modified
 - f) begin with the quoted text
- 2) What would the bibliographic entry look like for the source you are using?