

## Writing and Humanities Tutoring Center



### Introducing Quotes – MLA Style

MLA (Modern Language Association) is mostly used by students and academic professionals in the humanities (Literary Studies, English Studies, Foreign Language Studies, Comparative Literature) and mostly relies on direct quotations from sources rather than paraphrasing.

#### How to write quotes into your paper:

- Every quote should be contained within quotation marks and end with an in-text citation. For example:
  - According to John Doe, “Global warming is a global issue” (1).

As you can see from the example, quotes need to be introduced rather than merely plopped into a text. Here are several examples of when and how to introduce a quote:

- **First time mentioning an author and a specific article/book**, write the full title of the article/book and the author’s first and last name:
  - Article: In “The Climate Change Crisis,” John Doe writes, “Global warming is a global issue” (1).
  - Book: In *Climate Change Apocalypse*, Jane Smith explains, “This is an emergency” (42).
- **Every subsequent time you mention the same text**, don't repeat the article and only use the author's last name. Remember that he is Doe, not John. Using an author’s first name is informal and not appropriate for essay writing:
  - Doe writes, “Floods and hurricanes are increasing human misery” (2).
- **If you only need part of the quote** you can omit the rest using three periods, also known as ellipses (...):
  - Doe explains, “Climate change is a global issue... Ultimately global warming affects everything and everyone” (3).
- Notice there are several words you can use to introduce the quote. Using different introductions helps you avoid too much repetition in your paper. Examples:
  - Doe **writes**,
  - Doe **argues**,
  - Doe **explains**,
  - Remember not to go overboard or your text can be exhausting to write/read!

Occasionally it is appropriate to insert a quote without an introduction for example, when you have explained its importance in the previous sentence. This is a bit more challenging for writers still learning the basics. You will need to include the author’s last name in the parentheses because it was not introduced. Example:

- The science is irrefutable and yet some still deny the impact climate change will have on millions of people around the globe. “In fact, some scientists believe it might be too late to prevent massive suffering” (Doe 16).

#### Less is more:

- No need to write: The author John Doe explains, “Global warming is bad” (20). We know he is the author because you put quotes around his words.
- No need to explain: In the article, “Global Warming is Bad.” If there are quotes around it, your reader knows it’s an article.