

Suggested ways to introduce quotations

When you quote another writer's words, it's best to introduce or contextualize the quote.

Don't forget to include:

- author's last name,
- date of publication
- page number

Shown below are some possible ways to introduce quotations. These examples use APA format.

Introduce an author's words using a descriptive verb, followed by a comma.

Note that the first letter after the quotation marks should be *upper case* when you use a comma before the quotation.

Examples:

- Smith (2016) states, "This book is terrific" (p. 102).
- Smith (2016) remarks, "This book is terrific" (p. 102).
- Smith (2016) writes, "This book is terrific" (p. 102).
- Smith (2016) notes, "This book is terrific" (p. 102).
- Smith (2016) comments, "This book is terrific" (p. 102).
- Smith (2016) observes, "This book is terrific" (p. 102).
- Smith (2016) adds, "This book is terrific" (p. 102).

You can also begin a sentence with your own words, then complete it with quoted words.

Examples:

- Education is a "human right and every nation's responsibility" (Yen, 2014, p. 25).
- Most immigrant and refugee children who arrive in Canada have previous educational experiences "yet these pre-settlement experiences constitute a 'black-box' in their post-resettlement education" (Dryden-Peterson, 2015 p. 133).

If your lead-in to the quotation ends in **that** or **as**, don't follow it with a comma.

The first letter of the quotation should be *lower case* when you do not use a comma before the quotation.

Examples:

- Smith (2016) points out **that** "millions of students would like to burn this book" (p. 53).
- Smith (2016) emphasizes **that** "millions of students would like to burn this book" (p. 53).
- Smith (2016) interprets the hand washing in *MacBeth* **as** "an attempt at absolution" (p. 106).
- Smith (2016) describes the novel **as** "a celebration of human experience" (p. 233).

To quote a critic or researcher, you can use an introductory phrase naming the source, followed by a comma.

Note that the first letter after the quotation marks should be *upper case* when you use a comma before the quotation.

Examples:

- According to Smith (2016), "Writing is fun" (p. 215).
- In Smith's (2016) words, "Writing is fun" (p. 215).
- In Smith's (2016) view, "Writing is fun" (p. 215).