

Discussing Quotations in Academic Papers



A quotation is valuable when the writer discusses its worth in a research paper.

Just as a quotation needs a signal phrase and in-text citation to say where the quotation came from, it needs a discussion to say why it is important.

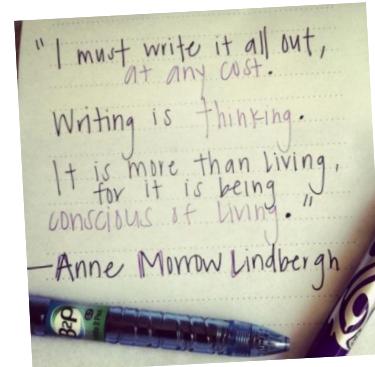
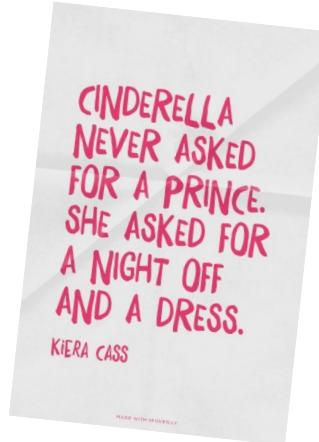
The discussion should follow the quotation.

The discussion often will need several sentences.



"You have such a
February face,
So full of frost, of
storm and
cloudiness."

William Shakespeare, Much
Ado About Nothing



"Two beer, or not
two beer. That is
the question."

William Shakesbeer

The discussion sentences often use wording that is about things that are common knowledge, stuff that we all know.

This is your chance to demonstrate to your reader why the quotation that you use supports the point you are trying to make.



Automobiles have given Americans technology that transforms travel.

Every paragraph must start with a topic sentence that states generally what the paragraph is about.

Automobiles have given Americans technology that transforms travel. Jeffery Deaver's novel *Roadside Crosses* opens with a common example of that technology when he writes about a police officer who, ". . . pulled over onto the right shoulder. He parked with the hood of the Ford pointed leftward toward traffic" (1).

A quotation from Deaver's novel is inserted in the paragraph.

Automobiles have given Americans technology that transforms travel. Jeffery Deaver's novel *Roadside Crosses* opens with a common example of that technology when he writes about a police officer who, “. . . pulled over onto the right shoulder. He parked with the hood of the Ford pointed leftward toward traffic” (1).

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A signal phrase says where the quotation is from.

Note that the signal phrase includes a simple, descriptive phrase about technology that puts the quotation into context.

Automobiles have given Americans technology that transforms travel. Jeffery Deaver's novel *Roadside Crosses* opens with a common example of that technology when he writes about a police officer who, ". . . pulled over onto the right shoulder. He parked with the hood of the Ford pointed leftward toward traffic" (1). Deaver fills his novel with technology, and introducing the use of a Ford, a common American sedan, as a police vehicle puts technology right on the first page.

**The sentences following the quotation discuss it
in a variety of ways.**

Automobiles have given Americans technology that transforms travel. Jeffery Deaver's novel *Roadside Crosses* opens with a common example of that technology when he writes about a police officer who, ". . . pulled over onto the right shoulder. He parked with the hood of the Ford pointed leftward toward traffic" (1). Deaver fills his novel with technology, and introducing the use of a Ford, a common American sedan, as a police vehicle puts technology right on the first page. Cars are objects of art, tools for basic transportation, and fundamental to traveling in California, a state where everything seems to be too many miles away.

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