

How to Utilise Quotations for Maximum Effect

*...and how to say what **you** mean, not
what someone else means.*

What are **YOU** Writing?

- **YOUR** argument is what is going to make **YOUR** paper and **YOUR** research stand out.
- **YOUR** point of view, backed up by **YOUR** well-referenced analysis and research is what ultimately earns you **YOUR** marks, and **YOUR** degree.

This may seem obvious, no? You would be surprised!

Sensible Quotation Use: Trawling

- For each key point you are trying to make, find a good body of initial, relevant research.
- As you do your initial round of reading, make note of **ANY AND ALL** quotations that may be of interest later on – if it suits you, divide them up into sections depending on their perceived relevance.
- Annotate these quotes with **WHY** you found them interesting – you may forget what you were thinking about later on and forget why the quote was useful!
- **DO NOT** disregard opposing points of view that conflict with your argument – these are often the most useful – getting something to directly critique and argue against is research **GOLD!**

Sensible Quotation Use: Biblio-as-you-go!

- Your bibliography – it **IS** big, and it **IS** (hopefully!) clever.
- Add references to your full reference list **AS YOU GO**. Most good papers can expect to have upwards of 5 pages of references (especially games courses – don't forget each game must be referenced too), and doing this at the end of the project is:
 - Tedious
 - More difficult
 - Prone to errors and omissions
 - Generally a bit silly 😊
- Go to the effort at the beginning to fully reference, in correct alphabetical fashion, all of your citations that you consider relevant.
 - A little added tedium now = calm and collected student later (yes, they **DO** exist)
- Bookmark and make use of:
 - Referencing @ Portsmouth, the University Library Website
 - The Harvard APA official website

Sensible Quotation Use: The Four C's

- Use citations for one of the following:
 - **Commencement** – *to lead in to a new section*
 - **Critique** – *to argue **FOR OR AGAINST** your point of view*
 - **Commentary** – *to show you have done your reading*
 - **Conclusion** – *as an emphatic conclusion to a section*
- **DO NOT** use citations for:
 - Padding – they do not count towards your word count anyway!
 - To make a point which you then do not elaborate on (why say it in this case?)
 - The sake of it!

Sensible Quotation Use: What type?

- You can use two different types of quotation method:
 - *In-Line*
 - *Block*
- **In-Line:**
 - Less than three lines long
 - Is inserted directly into the text
 - Is surrounded by quote marks
 - Most often useful for small excerpts of text that fit nicely into your own writing,
 - e.g. The games industry has been noted to be suffering from a “hamster-wheel” (Betteridge, 2008, cited in Elliot, 2008) mentality...
- **Block:**
 - Longer than three lines long
 - Is indented on the page (Select the entire quotation and hit the ‘Tab’ key once)
 - Is **NOT** surrounded by quote marks
 - Useful for citing experiment methodologies, conclusions etc. that would not benefit from being rewritten in your own words.

Summary, and General Good Practice

- Make use of referencing and citations wherever they can **ADD SOMETHING TO YOUR ARGUMENT**.
- Always go further than what your citation says. You get marks for **GOING BEYOND** what other people have done not simply stating verbatim what has already been written.

Be **EVALUATIVE**, not **DESCRIPTIVE**

- Use **multiple** citations to support or contest an argument – the more **evidence**, the more **weight** your argument carries.
- If your citation does not fulfil one of the Four C's, it is likely not necessary. Quoting for the sake of it looks:
 - Naive
 - Not very academic
 - ...like something that will not earn you any marks!
- Keep your references organised at all times. As physically painful as it may be, do not leave sorting out your bibliography until the night before hand-in.

These tips are not just good for sensible citation use, they will ultimately make your entire writing experience easier. **Organisation**, **relevance** and **conciseness** are key!

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