

## When to quote from or paraphrase secondary material/ evidence

**Quoting** = using the exact same words as the original author and using quotation marks to indicate which words do not belong to you. **Paraphrasing** = using your own words to describe another author's idea. For this, we do not use quotation marks but, even when paraphrasing, you must indicate that this is the intellectual property of another scholar with an in-text citation and reference.

### 1. FOR SUPPORT:

- When you think that the primary evidence does not fully demonstrate your argument or point, and that secondary evidence would help convince your reader.
- When you feel you are making an argument that is a little “shaky”, or when you feel like you are “stretching” your interpretation.

2. **FOR DEPTH:** When you want to add nuance to a point using scholarly theories, examples, summaries, etc.

3. **FOR CONTEXT:** If you think your point fits into/ is an example of a broader paradigm, trend, or theoretical framework.

4. **FOR SCOPE:** When you want to show that, even though you do not have the scope to cover everything in your assignment, you are nevertheless aware of the broader implications of your points.

### 5. FOR BIG CLAIMS:

- When you need to make a very broad/ overarching statement about a text, a topic, a theory, a trend, a person, an era, a culture, or a particular zeitgeist.
- Scholarship provides something of a “shorthand” so you can demonstrate that, though you do not have the scope to cover the entire history of this topic, your ability to make such a big claim is based on informed research.

Whether you are quoting or paraphrasing, you must always provide an **in-text citation** and a reference in the Works Cited section.

**Students should always check and follow the citation style used by their School, e.g. MLA, Harvard, Vancouver, Chicago, APA, etc.**

You can find out what citation style your school uses here:  
<https://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity/citingstyles>

## How to quote from other scholars

**Note:** The following is an example of MLA referencing style, but most of the advice applies to other styles also.

When you want to quote a scholar:

1. Provide a “transition sentence” **before** the quotation, so that your reader is “set up” for the scholar’s idea.
2. Use **quotation marks** (as well as correct punctuation marks, e.g. a colon) to indicate where the scholar’s idea begins and ends. This makes it clear what is and is not your own intellectual property.
3. Provide an **in-text citation** for the quotation and a reference in the Works Cited section in the style required by your School (e.g. MLA, Harvard, Vancouver, Chicago, APA, etc.).
4. Provide a second “transition sentence” **after** the quotation that reflects, comments on, contradicts, or builds upon what you have just quoted. This helps the reader to understand why the secondary material is important to your work.

Example:

**In-text:**

In his account of waste and realism in Dickens’ novel, *Bleak House*, Patrick Chappell argues: “Paper in *Bleak House* is the rubbish product that is always deferring its final stage of absolute waste. Dickens uses paper to model both a remarkably complex thing theory based on dynamic shifts in value as well as a character economy based on the irresolvable gap between excess and closure” (Chappell 784). Chappell’s central point here is that Dickens uses paper as a means of mapping value within the text. However, his point about deferral and the ways in which paper resists its own wastage is particularly poignant for the purposes of this essay. This deferral demonstrates... [*and so on*].

**Reference:**

Chappell, Patrick. “Paper Routes: *Bleak House*, Rubbish Theory, and the Character Economy of Realism”, *ELH*, vol. 80, no. 3, Autumn 2013, pp. 783-810.

## How to paraphrase other scholars (e.g. MLA)

When you want to paraphrase a scholar:

1. Make a **bullet-point list** of the central ideas of that scholar's argument. What are the "big takeaways" of what that scholar is saying? When compiling your list, avoid the exact same words that the author has used.
2. After you have made the bullet-point list, write the argument out in **your own words** relying only on your own bullet-point list.
3. Now **redraft** your version until it is clear and until it says everything you want it to say.
4. Provide an **in-text citation** for the paraphrase and a reference in the Works Cited section in the style required by your School (e.g. MLA, Harvard, Vancouver, Chicago, APA, etc.).

Example:

### **Original quotation:**

"Paper in *Bleak House* is the rubbish product that is always deferring its final stage of absolute waste. Dickens uses paper to model both a remarkably complex thing theory based on dynamic shifts in value as well as a character economy based on the irresolvable gap between excess and closure" (Chappell 784).

### **Bullet-point list of main ideas:**

- Talking about waste and realism.
- Describes Dickens' use of paper as thing theory.
- Paper avoids being waste in the novel. Re-used paper.
- Paper shows changes in value. Function = reveal values.
- Paper reveals a big gap between excess and finality.

### **In-text paraphrase:**

In his account of waste and realism in Dickens' novel *Bleak House*, Patrick Chappell uses what he calls a thing theory to argue that paper resists its own wastage, and that Dickens uses paper as a means of mapping value and character development (Chappell 784).

### **Reference:**

Chappell, Patrick. "Paper Routes: *Bleak House*, Rubbish Theory, and the Character Economy of Realism", *ELH*, vol. 80, no. 3, Autumn 2013, pp. 783-810.