How to Use Quotes When Writing Papers

(Quick Version)

Quotes are useful in writing because they allow you to back up what you are saying with text from your source (book, movie, internet, etc.). When using quotes, it is important to work them into your sentences. Do NOT put quotes alone in a sentence. Instead, introduce them in a way that they become part of your own sentence.

For example, when you are introducing a quote from *Please Stop Laughing at Me*, it could look something like this:

Jodee helped Scott when she took him the movies because now he had a friend. Before this, Scott was “the outcast who no one ever spoke to” (Blanco 835). After he and Jodee went to the movies, he felt included and was no longer the outcast, which was good for his self-esteem.

* I included information before the quote that introduced the context of the quote.
* In the sentence with the quote, I used quote marks to set the quote apart in the sentence
* I explained the quote in the sentence after – I didn’t just put the quote in
* After the quote, I put the author’s last name, a space (NOT A COMMA) and the page number in the book where I found the quote, THEN a period.
  + THIS PART OF THE SENTENCE MUST BE FORMATTED LIKE THIS!!! ***PAY ATTENTION!***

When you are introducing a quote from the movie *Pay it Forward*, it could look something like this:

Trevor came up with an idea to help other people. His idea was that he would help three people and then instead of those people paying him back for his help, they would each help three more people. This is what he called Pay it Forward. In the movie, the first person Trevor helps is Monica. He helps her when he saves her cat from drowning in the river. Monica can’t swim, so when her cat falls into the water, she can’t go get him. However, Trevor sees what happens and he jumps in and saves the cat! After the cat is safely returned to Monica, she tells Trevor, “you helped me when you didn’t have to. I’m not sure how I will ever repay you” (Spacey). Trevor explains his idea to her and how she doesn’t have to repay him, but he asks her to pay it forward to more people.

* I included information before that quote that introduced the context of the quote.
* In the sentence with the quote, I used quote marks to set the quote apart in the sentence
* I explained the quote in the sentence after – I didn’t just put the quote in
* After the quote, I put the first name that matched up with the movie in my Works Cited page. Because Kevin Spacey was the first actor I chose when I created the entry for the movie, his name appears first on my Works Cited page, and therefore, is the name that should go in the parenthesis so that it matches with the Works Cited page. This name could be different, depending on who you chose for the actors when you created your Works Cited page
  + THIS PART OF THE SENTENCE MUST BE FORMATTED LIKE THIS!!! ***PAY ATTENTION!***

When you are introducing a quote from a website where you found information about the person you researched, it could look something like this:

Siddhartha Gautama is a central figure in the Buddhist belief system. He is most commonly known as Buddha. Even though he was a prince, “Buddhist scriptures say that the future Buddha felt that material wealth was not life's ultimate goal” (Pettinger). During his search to find a way to overcome aging and sickness, Buddha renounced, or gave up, all worldly possessions. He decided to live life as simplistically as possible. Eventually, he met up with others who shared this same philosophy and they began to travel together, thus spreading the ideas of Buddhism across the country.

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* After the quote, I put the first name that matched up with the movie in my Works Cited page. Because Pettinger was the author of the article on Wikipedia that I used, his name is what goes in the parenthesis. If there isn’t an author for your website, that’s ok. You just need to use whatever is first on the entry from your Works Cited page (which is probably the article title – make sure it is in quotes!)
  + **YOU SHOULD *NEVER* PUT THE WEBSITE ADDRESS IN PARENTHESIS**

* + THIS PART OF THE SENTENCE MUST BE FORMATTED LIKE THIS!!! ***PAY ATTENTION!***