

Using Quotes in Your Writing

In this essay, you will use direct quotes from the novel to illustrate your key points.

When you use a direct quotation, you must:

- Set up the quote with a **lead in**, which provides context for the quote.
- **Cite** the source of the quote with proper MLA parenthetical citation. (author, page #)
- Follow up the quote with **commentary**. This shares with the reader how the quote adds or defends your thesis.

Example:

In the beginning of the story, Ralph is thrilled to hear that there are no grown ups on the island. He tells the boys at one of the first assemblies that “while we’re waiting, we can have a good time on this island” (Golding, 34). He sees possibility for great adventure in their situation.