

Quoting--effective integration and use

You already have the handout of citing quotations. Please refer to that when you write your paper. I will expect perfect form. Aside from using quotation marks correctly, knowing when and how to use slashes and long quotation form, and properly citing book and line numbers, there are ways to improve the way in which you use quotations.

Effective Integration

- *As much as possible, try to blend quotations into your own sentence so that it flows well.*
- *Avoid mentioning that you are about to quote--this is obvious to the reader.*

NO

In the following quote Michael says to Adam "but shall possess / a paradise within thee, happier far" (Book XII, Lines 586-587).

YES

Michael assures Adam that, although he will no longer reside in the Garden of Eden, he "shall possess / a paradise within [him], happier far" (XII.586-87).

OR

Michael assures Adam that, although he may no longer reside in the Garden of Eden, he will "possess" a "happier" "paradise within" his heart, which he can carry wherever he goes (XII. 585, 586).

- *Avoid dropping quotations into the text without warning; instead provide a clear signal phrase.*

NO

Milton gives a vision of the future in Book XII. "O execrable son so to aspire / Above his brethren, to himself assuming/ Authority usurped, from God not giv'n" (XII.64-66).

YES

In Book XII, Milton's future vision of Nimrod's actions indicates the disorder that the world has fallen to: "O execrable son so to aspire / Above his brethren, to himself assuming/ Authority usurped, from God not giv'n" (XII.64-66).

Effective Use

- *You do not need to quote a whole sentence if you only need part of it to make your point.*

no

Michael decides to tell Adam about the future rather than showing him:

But I perceived

Thy mortal sight to fail; objects divine

Must needs impair and weary human sense:

Henceforth what is to come I will relate,

Thou therefore give due audience, and attend. (XII. 5-9)

yes

Michael decides to "relate" or tell Adam about the future rather than showing him because he feels that Adam's "mortal sight" is "fail[ing]" (XII. 8, 6).

- *When you quote from a text, especially if you are quoting a lengthy piece of the text, you need to work with the quotation rather than letting it speak for itself. Analyze the quotation to demonstrate why it is important to your argument. Make sure that your own words are most prominent.*

no

Eve states her willingness to move forward:

In me is no delay; with thee to go,

Is to stay here; without thee here to stay,

Is to go hence unwilling; thou to me

Art all things under heav'n, all places though,

Who for my wilful crime art banished hence. (XII. 615-19)

This statement clearly shows how Eve will put her love for Adam above all.

yes

Eve demonstrates her continued dependence on Adam:

In me is no delay; with thee to go,

Is to stay here; without thee here to stay,

Is to go hence unwilling; thou to me

Art all things under heav'n, all places though,

Who for my wilful crime art banished hence. (XII. 615-19)

Here Eve suggests that leaving Eden by Adam's side is a paradise in itself. To "go" with him is "to stay here." For Eve, there is no other option *but* to leave with Adam since in him she finds "all things under heaven." Without him, one would assume, she has nothing. The reminder of her "wilful crime" reminds the reader that she is attached to Adam through her sin and therefore must obey God's punishment that she be serve her husband, rendering her utterly dependent and ultimately powerless.