

# Using Quotes:

## As Easy as S-Q-C

Students often struggle with using source material (think quotes here) effectively. Often, student-writers will use a quote because they have been asked to do so for an assignment and believe that it will support their message. This is correct; source material can make writing stronger, especially argumentative writing. But writers must know how to properly use this material. The following method will help you integrate your sources into your writing.

### S-Q-C Method (State, Quote, Comment):

- **State** the main idea that the quote or other source material discusses;
- **Quote** the person or material you are using to support your writing;
- **Comment** on the quotation:

Depending on the purpose of your writing (argument, exposition, expression) the commenting will take on a different approach. The **main idea** of the commenting section is that you are interpreting the quotation (saying what it means) and connecting the quotation to your writing (showing why you chose to use this particular quotation and how it relates to your topic and overall theme).

### A few additional thoughts:

- **Don't forget your citation!**
- Quotations are naturally out of context when you use them in your writing.
  - The writer has to make the connection between source material and the rest of the writing in a paragraph.
- This method is developed to help the writer develop a greater presence and voice when writing.
  - Use source material to support your writing; do not let the source material take over your writing
- Limit the amount of quotations used in a paragraph. You don't want other sources to take over your writing. If your paragraphs are comprised of more quotations than your writing, you need to revise.

### Example:

For many people in America, those ten years bore witness to the “victory” of western capitalism. In an essay published in *Harper's* shortly after the attacks, Don DeLillo writes, “With the end of Communism, the ideas and principles of modern democracy were clearly seen to prevail, whatever the inequalities of the system itself” (“In the Ruins” 40). The result, as DeLillo perceived it, was ten years of a capitalist’s utopia: full of limitless potential. But it was also a realization of those past years of looking toward the future, those past years of capitalist teleology.