**Examples of Correctly Cited Paragraphs (MLA format)**

In an interview with George Plimpton, Truman Capote argued that a writer should remain completely objective in a piece of non-fiction.  **Capote stated,** “My feeling is that for the nonfiction-novel form to be entirely successful, the author should not appear in the work. Ideally. Otherwise, opinion intrudes when it really shouldn't. I think the single most difficult thing in my book, technically, was to write it without ever appearing myself, and yet, at the same time, create total credibility” **(Plimpton).**  Despite Capote’s claims of total credibility, astute readers have found numerous instances where Capote’s tone and selection of detail reveal his bias against the death penalty.  Reader’s suspicions are confirmed in part by the book *Capote: A Biography.*  Biographer **Gerald Clarke cites** a letter where Capote admitted, "I had a great understanding for both Hickock and Smith, and for Perry I had a tremendous amount of sympathy" **(Clarke 157).***It will be important to provide a good deal of analysis after you’ve cited your quotes. You want to avoid quote bombs, so clearly explain why you’ve chosen your quotes and how they help prove your thesis. Sometimes your analysis seems obvious to you, but it is always better to explain your thought process than to cross your fingers and hope your reader will infer the same connections you have made.*

Not only do Capote’s political and personal biases erode some of his credibility, but many readers also question the microscopic level of detail he includes in a few of the book’s more narrative sections. **According to Clarke** several early critics of the book zeroed in on the scene in which Dick swerves to hit a dog, calling it “improbable” and even “a worn-out cliché.” Readers were left to wonder “was there actually a dog at that exact point in the narrative, trotting along the side of the road? Or is it just a fictional device used to turn readers against Dick.” Capote remained adamant that, “there was a dog, and it was precisely as described. One doesn’t spend six years on a book, the point of which is factual accuracy, and then give way to minor distortions” **(Clarke 163-164, 167).** *Again you will want to follow up your quotations with your own analysis. See above. You’ll want to be thorough, so explain the significance of your quotations. Again, explain how these quotes help prove your thesis.*

**What to Look For in Well-Cited Paragraphs:**

-The first time you introduce a source provide the title and the full name of the author. After that use the last name of the author to introduce a quote or paraphrase. These are called signal phrases. They clarify where your ideas end and the quote or paraphrase begins.

-The parenthetical citation for a print source must include the author’s last name and the page number(s). Notice the position of the period and the lack of commas or the word, “page.”

-If you have a series of quotations, such as in the second paragraph, you can use one citation at the end. This expanded citation provides each page the quotations were taken from and provides a clear signal that the quotations are done and the analysis is beginning.

- The parenthetical citation for an online source should be the author’s last name or a shortened version of the title if there is no author. It will never include a page number.

**Works Cited**

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences*. New York: Random House, 1966. Print.

Clarke, Gerald. *Capote: A Biography*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988. Print.

Miller, Bennett dir. *Capote*. Perf. Philip Seymour Hoffman. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Distributing

Corporation, 2005. DVD.

Plimpton, George. "The Story Behind a Nonfiction Novel." New York Times, 1997. Web. 3 Oct.

2014.

“Truman Capote” *Bio.com*. A&E Networks Television. Web. 28 Jan. 2016.

**What to Look For in a Works Cited Page:**

--Includes only the sources you cite in the paper

**--**The exact phrase “**Works Cited”** centered at the top of the page

--Sources are in alphabetical order according to the first word in each entry

--Source entries are DOUBLE SPACED

--Source entries utilize “hanging indentations” (the reverse of a paragraph)

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