

How to Put Quotations in Your Expository Writing

1) Quotations that are less than four lines can be put directly in your writing. Place them as you would any ordinary quotation, using a comma to introduce the quotations and open quotes and closed quotes.

E.g.: In his epilogue, Roberts stated, "I can't allow this abomination to continue." (34)

2) Ellipses are used when something has been taken out of the quotation.

E.g.: He was physically grotesque, as described by the author: "...he stumbled onto the stage, waddling on his crooked limbs and wagging his huge misshapen head from side to side..." (Wilde 1) His physical abnormalities set him apart from the other children.

3) If quotations are part of your sentence and are less than four lines long they can be embedded within your sentence without a comma to introduce the quotation.

E.g.: He was physically monstrous as he "was misshapen and hunchback, foul to look at and grotesque." (Wilde 3) His physical deformities set him apart from his peers.

4) If you present a quotation that is longer than four lines, start the quotation on a new line separated from the text and indent on both sides. Introduce the quotation with a colon. Quotation marks are not necessary for these quotations. There is no need to intend the continuation of text after the quotation.

E.g.: When the Dwarf realized his situation, he felt anguish:

When the truth dawned on the Dwarf, he gave a wild cry of despair and fell sobbing to the ground. So it was he who was misshapen and hunchbacked, foul to look at and grotesque. He was the monster, and it was at him that all the children had been laughing. The little Princess who he had thought loved him – she too had been laughing at his ugliness, and making fun of his twisted limbs. (Wilde 3)

His "despair" was not only because he was ugly, but more than that. It was because the Princess was, in fact, laughing at his ugliness.