# How Do I Cite or Use Quotes?

Your assignment is to write a paper in which you use textual support to prove your points. Some of the questions you might want to ask yourself are:

## *What's the difference between Citing and Quoting?*

- ✓ Every time you refer in your paper to the ideas you have found through your research, you need to <u>cite</u> (using proper style, i.e., MLA, APA, CMS, etc.)

- ✓ Only when you borrow <u>not only the idea</u> but the <u>actual words</u> should you <u>quote</u> (after which you will still need to cite your source appropriately).

## *How much support do I need to use?*

- ✓ Make it a goal to use <u>at least</u> one quote from the text or paraphrased material (with citation) to support every "big" idea or major point you have included in your paper.

- ✓ Use enough textual evidence to explain how or why you formulated an idea.

## *Am I using too much?*

- ✓ It is important to remember that you never want quotes/textual support to outweigh your own analysis.

## *Should I be using my own words?*

- ✓ Whenever possible, paraphrase! Paraphrasing is not simply changing a few words in a particular quote by using the thesaurus; rather, it is a thoughtful, often shorter, version of the source material. When paraphrasing, remember to cite the source.

**Some Suggestions…**

- ✓ Be careful not to fall into the trap of "hanging quotes." A hanging quote is a quote that stands all by itself in a sentence, without any of your own words to introduce it or comment on it.

    - Hanging Quote:
        "There are many theories of poetic origins" (Bloom 59).

    - Introduced Quote:
        Despite the argument that all poetry proceeds from direct experience, Bloom argues that "[t]here are many theories of poetic origins" (59).

- ✓ Try to end paragraphs or conclude major ideas/points of your paper with your <u>own</u> words, not someone else's.

- ✓ Do not use "back-to-back quotes," one after another, without interjection of your own thoughts. There is a reason that you utilize a specific quote, right? Make sure you explain that reason rather than expecting the quote to do so on its own.