

Integrating Quoted Material with MLA Citations

It is rarely effective to just dump a quoted sentence into your essay. There are several more effective ways that you can integrate quoted material into your writing.

1. Snippet quoting, no commas needed

While the wolf is swallowing the grandmother whole, Little Red-Cap is “running about picking flowers” (Grimm and Grimm 85).

The huntsman uses “a pair of scissors” to “cut open the stomach of the sleeping wolf,” thereby freeing Little Red-Cap and her grandmother (Grimm and Grimm 86).

2. Integrating with a comma

The story ends with a definite moral when Little Red-Cap says, “As long as I live, I will never by myself leave the path, to run into the wood, when my mother has forbidden me to do so” (Grimm and Grimm 86).

3. Integrating with a semicolon or colon

Little Red-Cap is, unfortunately, distracted by the flowers: “whenever she had picked one, she fancied that she saw a still prettier one farther on” (Grimm and Grimm 85).

By the end of the story, Little Red-Cap is more clever than she was at the beginning; “Red-Cap, however, quickly fetched great stones with which they filled the wolf’s body” (Grimm and Grimm 86).

Note: This method can only be used if you are quoting a complete sentence from the source.

4. Altering quoted material

The huntsman “took a pair of scissors, and . . . cut open the stomach of the sleeping wolf” (Grimm and Grimm 86).

Once Little Red-Cap and her grandmother pack the wolf’s stomach with stones, he wakes up and “want[s] to run away, but the stones [are] so heavy that he [falls] down . . . dead” (Grimm and Grimm 86).

NOTES:

* Don’t forget to use internal citations with *every sentence* that contains quoted material.

** Remember that you *must* use quotation marks around the source’s words, but you *should* never put quotation marks around summary written in your own words.