Quotations, Paraphrases & Summaries
MLA FORMAT

To cite
When a professor says that you need to cite your sources, it means that you need to give credit to the person(s), website, or other source where you found information that is not general knowledge.

Three Ways to Cite
1. Quotation - A quote is taking someone else’s exact words and putting them in your essay. Basically, to quote means you cut and pasted a few words, a sentence, or a paragraph from a source and put it in your paper. A quote has “quotation marks” around it.

One explanation for this problem is that “The activity is often not sustained long enough to make a difference” (Harris 23).

2. Paraphrase – To paraphrase means to use someone else’s idea, change the words, and put those new words in your essay. This is not the same as a “quote” because what you put in your essay is NOT exactly the same as how it was in the source. That’s why a paraphrase does not have any quotation marks around it. However, because the original idea did not come from you, you still need to cite it correctly.

Stephen Sutton argues that less school recess and physical education programs are not to blame for obesity in children.

3. Summary – Summarizing means that you read a few paragraphs (or more) from a source and then put the idea that you learned into your essay, but you summarize it. For example, instead of quoting all three whole paragraphs from the source, you just write the overall idea into a few sentences of your own. Summaries do not have any quotation marks around them. However, because the original idea did not come from you, you still need to cite the summary correctly.

Canada, Great Britain, Australia and most developed countries have restrictions that limit the amount of GMOs in foods, require individual testing, or even prohibit the production of bioengineered foods completely ("Labeling Foods Genetically").

Plagiarism
Plagiarism occurs when a student uses information from a source (website, book, scholarly article, etc.) without following the proper citation rules. Even if you try to do the citation, if that citation is done incorrectly, you could still be guilty of plagiarism.
Parentheses?
- The part in ( ) is called a parenthetical citation or in-text citation
- For quotations, paraphrases and summaries, you can choose to put the author’s last name in the sentence. Here is a quotation...

   Despite the popularity of the old adage, Smith believes “…apples and oranges are more alike than we give them credit for” (45).

OR

- For quotations, paraphrases and summaries, you can choose to put the author’s name in the ( ) at the end of the sentence. Here is a paraphrase...

   Despite the popularity of the old adage, apples and oranges are much more similar than people seem to realize (Smith).

The period always goes outside of the parenthetical citation

Do not do both! If you write the author’s last name in the sentence, then you should not put the author’s last name in the ( ) also.

Despite the popularity of the old adage, Smith believes “…apples and oranges are more alike than we give them credit for” (Smith 45).

How It Should Look

A short quote within an essay

The Smurfs franchise may be designed for children, but The Smurfs 2 is missing the elements that make other computer animated franchises so enjoyable. According to Simon Abrams, “The movie is generally moronic and unmoving when it most needs to be cute and disarming.” By this review, Abrams displays what the film is lacking: substance and endearment. The audience...
The Smurfs franchise may be designed for children, but *The Smurfs 2* is missing the elements that make other computer animated franchises so enjoyable. Film critic Sarah Pilafanty displays the movie’s shortcomings best:

Still, you should know that *The Smurfs 2* is a charmless endurance test. It wears you down with tossed-off Smurf-related puns like, "I almost smurfed myself," and "Sometimes, you gotta smurf Hank Azaria are consistently wasted on a script that's like Mad Libs as filled in by a monomaniacal, but schematically programmed spambot ("Well, that was ducked up," one character groans after being transformed into, well, a duck). Reluctant parents: you don't need to tell your kids that you won't love them if they like "The Smurfs 2." Instead, you can silently judge them until either you and/or they simply can't bear the thought of talking to each other. (22-3)

This review shows that substance and endearment are severely lacking from *The Smurfs 2*, with primary reasons parents enjoy popular animated films that are marketed toward their children.

**Steps for making a block quote**

1. Start the quotation on a new line
2. Do NOT use quotation marks
3. Indent the entire quote one inch from the left margin (10 spaces)
4. Maintain double-spacing
5. The parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark
6. For long or short quotes/paraphrases from a source with pages (online or print), include the page number of where you got the quote in parentheses at the end of the quoted section.