How to cite your sources within the body of your essay:

1. You can run the quotations in with the text of your sentence, as long as you place quotation marks around the text that is not your own.

Example: The narrator continuously references her father’s physical transformation, describing how his “eyes, once black and brilliant are now empty of expression, like two pieces of volcanic rock that have been drowned in a river to cool” (121).

1. You can use short phrases from the text and embed them into your sentences:

Example: The narrator describes her father’s decline in powerful language, talking about his “drunken rages” (118), his eyes “empty of expression” (121) and the way “the room seemed to shrink in the face of his sorrow” (118).

1. You can use longer quotations, if you set them off by indenting them from the left margin. You do not need quotation marks for this kind of quotation, known as the “block” quotation. You need forty words or more for a block quotation (a few lines of text.) When you use a block quote, you have to follow-up on it afterwards. In other words, you cannot end your paragraph at the end of the quote. It is helpful for your reader when you **explain what you** saw in the citation, which steers them away from possible misinterpretations. *See* *Easy Writer*, page 122.

Example:

At the beginning of the documentary film, *Daughter from Danang*, Heidi Bub describes one of her first experiences adjusting to life in the United States:

I remember going to her house, not knowing what was going on, and why am I here with this lady? I remember watching her one time doing laundry, and she put it in this machine, and I thought wow y'know, so I noticed one day she said the cat was dirty. And you will not believe what I did. I put that cat in the washing machine, and all of a sudden you here this "meooww" and this thing thumping against the machine like that. My mom comes running into the room. She says: "cat! Cat!" And I pointed to the machine, and she pulled that cat out, and that cat was just so pitiful looking.

This anecdote highlights Heidi’s sense of humor about her early experiences with her adoptive mother, as well as her penchant for story-telling. The film gives us many glimpses into Heidi’s fun-loving and cheerful personality, even as it does her deep despair.

MLA Bibliography Style:

In-text:

When you cite something within the body of your essay, you give reference to the **author’s nameand** the **page number.** (See *Easy Writer*, pages 208-9)

1. Use a signal phrase to show the author:

In her book *The Gangster We Are All Looking For,* Thuy’s main character explores her earliest view of her father: “My first view of my father’s face is framed by the coiling barbed wire of a military camp in South Vietnam” (82).

1. Do not use a signal phrase for the author, but instead cite the author in parenthesis:

In the book *The Gangster We Are All Looking For* , the main character explores her earliest view of her father: “My first view of my father’s face is framed by the coiling barbed wire of a military camp in South Vietnam” (Thuy 82).

Works Cited List

For a single-author book: (See entry 6 on page 219 in *Easy Writer—*“basic format for a book”)

Crystal, David. *Language Play*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1998. Print.

For a film or DVD: (See entry 54 on page 239 in *Easy Writer*—“television or radio program”)

*The American Experience: Daughter from Danang*. Dir., Gail Dolgin and Vincente Franco. Prod. Gail Dolgin. PBS Home Video. 11 Jan 2002. Television.

Putting “I” in your writing

To discuss other people who might see things differently:

“Yet some readers may challenge my view by insisting that…”

“Impossible,” some will say. But I disagree…

“Although I grant that this book is poorly organized, I still think it raises an important issue.”

To make a point that may or may not be understood:

“While this may seem confusing, I want to emphasize…”

“My main objective is to…”

“’Why does this matter?’ It matters to me because…”