Insert Amazing Title Here

Ali O’Leary

Library 101

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So you have decided to read a Chicago style sample paper. A terrible idea really. Because no one ever reads the content of example papers, so the author can choose to say whatever they want, laugh at their own jokes, and no one will be the wiser because no one reads the fine print. But you will notice that I am still using the standard Chicago style guidelines - all of my paragraphs are double-spaced; I have a nice header, page number, the works. Here is ideally where a killer thesis statement would be - right at the end of a lovely introduction to a mind-blowing paper.

This is usually where an amazing topic sentence goes that lays out the main idea of the rest of the paragraph. You can see what high hopes I have for how well the rest of this paragraph is going to go. But it is time to introduce how quotes work in a paper. Of course, it is only appropriate that librarian humor be used, as is demonstrated in Gary D. Schmidt’s book, *Okay for Now*, “Mr. Powell raised an eyebrow. “I’m a librarian,” he said. “I always know what I’m talking about.”[[1]](#footnote-1) But a quote does not always have to have the author or the book introduced beforehand; sometimes, if the context works better than the one currently in this paper, a quote can be introduced in the middle of a sentence. Sort of like this: “I tried to write that theme when I got home….I started writing names across the paper….Then I drew horses all over it. *That* was going to get a good grade like all git-out.”[[2]](#footnote-2) Here is also where Chicago style citations differ from MLA and APA because it is a special snowflake citation style. Suppose I decided to have another Hinton quote right after the last one, like this: “O victim of environment, underprivileged,

rotten, no-count hood!”[[3]](#footnote-3) You can just use the author’s last name and the page number for your citation, but only if you are quoting the same book back to back. Additionally,

always make sure to end paragraphs with your own words though and not on a quote. It is bad form to end on a quote and English teachers cry when you do so.

What happens if you find that you have a whole section of information you want to include in your paper and there is no good way to paraphrase it? First of all, I do not believe you, but in the off chance that absolutely every word must be repeated word for word, it gives me an opportunity to demonstrate how block quotes work. Observe:

There are many, many types of books in the world, which makes good sense, because there are many, many types of people, and everybody wants to read something different. For instance, people who hate stories in which terrible things happen to small children should put this book down immediately. But one type of book that practically no one likes to read is a book about the law.[[4]](#footnote-4)

You can start your next sentence without an indent because ideally you are continuing the thought that you started before you went into your block quote. Also, suppose you used another Hinton quote in your paper - you will not get to use just the author’s name and page number, as before, but you will not have to include the full citation either - just author name, title, and page number. As used here: “You kept saying you didn’t like baloney, no matter what it was we were trying to get you to eat.”[[5]](#footnote-5) Furthermore, as we

discussed, we finish all of our paragraphs with our own thoughts instead of on a quote because we are all better trained and do not want to make our teachers cry.

But what if you get to the last paragraph of your sample paper and realize that you have never used an article for a citation? Well then, you can put one in here, again making sure that you have good information leading up to it before you go into the

quote: “Humorous tactics can be categorized into four types: affiliative, self-enhancing, self-defeating and aggressive.”[[6]](#footnote-6) I think this humor attempt may be a little aggressive and also nonsensical, but it is what it is. We have reached the end and it is time for you to look at the Works Cited example instead of getting a nice restatement of the thesis or a call to action statement, which would be a more appropriate way to end a paper.

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1. Gary D. Schmidt, *Okay for Now* (New York: Clarion Books, 2011), 306. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders* (New York: Puffin Books, 1999), 172. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Hinton, 136. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Lemony Snicket, *A Series of Unfortunate Events* (New York: HarperTrophy, 1999), 70. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Hinton, *The Outsiders*, 159. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Yi Wang, et al. “The Influence of Culture on Attitudes Towards Humorous Advertising,” *Frontiers in Psychology* 10, (2019): 1-12. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)