Citations: Direct Quote vs. Paraphrase
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There are two ways to cite something: quoting and paraphrasing.

Quotation: the exact wording from the original source, attributed to the author.

Paraphrase: the ideas from the original source, but described in your own words. This also needs to be attributed to the author.

Example 1:
Quotation: Dumbledore tells Harry that "the fact that you can feel pain like this is your greatest strength…suffering like this proves you are still a man! This pain is part of being human" (Rowling, 2003, p. 821).

Paraphrase: Dumbledore teaches Harry that vulnerability is actually a strength (Rowling, 2003).

Example 2:
Quotation: "Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communistic revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working Men of All Countries, Unite!" (Marx & Engels, 1848, p. 34)

Paraphrase: Marx and Engels (1848) urged the working class to revolt against the ruling class.

When should you quote, and when should you paraphrase?
Most of the time, you should paraphrase. Quoting too often interrupts the flow of your writing and can be jarring for readers. It can also give readers the impression that you are not confident in your understanding of the source material or that you are not confident in your writing ability. In some situations, however, quotations can enhance your paper. Some reasons would be if:

- You are quoting a famous or iconic statement (University of Adelaide, 2014)
- You want to draw attention to the fact that an authority on the subject has made the statement in order to show support for your argument (University of Adelaide, 2014; The Writing Center, n.d.)
- You want to show precisely what the author's argument was, because you are going to analyze or critique it (University of Adelaide, 2014; The Writing Center, n.d.)
- You are quoting a piece of literary text, which you are about to analyze (The Writing Center, n.d.)
- You want to capture the author's use of language, e.g., to capture the flavour of a certain culture or historical period, or to capture the author's personality or writing style (The Writing Center, n.d.)
- The statement is so well-written that it really couldn't have been said any better. e.g., a phrase that is particularly poetic or pithy (University of Adelaide, 2014; The Writing Center, n.d.)

If you are going to quote, there should be a reason why. Context and area of study makes a difference. For example, you are more likely to be using direct quotes if you are analyzing a novel than if you are summarizing data from a research study.

References

Rowling, J. K. (2003). *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.* Arthur A. Levine Books.

The University of Adelaide. (2014). *To paraphrase or to quote? Writing Centre learning guide* [PDF file]. https://www.adelaide.edu.au/writingcentre/sites/default/files/docs/learningguide-toparaphraseorquote.pdf

The Writing Center. (n.d.). *Quoting and paraphrasing*. University of Wisconsin-Madison. https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/quotingsources/