

Quote formatting and attribution: Self-directed lesson handout

As you learn about lead writing through the slideshow, use this handout to take notes and practice.

1. What is a quote in journalism?
2. How can you tell what parts of a story are quotes?
3. Why do we include quotes in our stories? Summarize your answers here.
4. For each quote below, explain why you think that quote was used (go back to slides 6-7 for help). Then, decide whether you think that quote is a good one to use in a story, and why/why not (go back to slides 7-8 for help).

Quote	Why would a reporter consider using this quote?	Ultimately, is this a good, strong quote to use? Explain your answer.
"Going to school online is like, really different than going to school for real because one is with all your friends and the other you're just alone in a room," junior Marcy West said.		

“I could smell the ashes all around our house,” freshman Alex Smatel said. “The sky was glowing this eerie orange, and it felt like the apocalypse.”		
“I struggle to feel important when I’m judged by what I’m wearing instead of what I have to offer the world,” sophomore Skylar Brolville said.		
“Our school is just a really awesome school. We are truly the best, and that’s why I think we won” principal Jolanda Arlen said.		

5. Paraphrase quotes 1 and 4 using the example provided on slide 19.
6. Copy the example for how to format a short quote.
7. Copy the example for how to format a long quote.
8. What does “attribution” mean? Hint: slide 20.

YOUR TURN TO PRACTICE

Original quote	Your corrected version
Paraphrase this quote: “I love snowboarding so much. It rocks. There’s just a lot to it that is awesome, such as white powder, speed, risk,” freshman Lucas Joseph said.	
Cut this quote down to only the most interesting part in order to make it a stronger direct quote: “I’m not one to judge because, you know, everyone has their own thing going on. But I really believe that students should spend less time doing homework and more time being outside in the world,” teacher Megan Fromm said.	
The attribution in this quote isn’t correct. How would you fix it? “I am not a fan of flying,” <u>explained Jane Marcus, senior</u>. “I feel like you’re just bouncing around in a tin can in the sky.”	
The formatting and attribution in this quote isn’t correct. How would you fix it? Freshman maria lemon exclaimed, “I love macaroni and cheese so much.”	
This quote needs proper attribution added in. How would you do that? “Dogs are incredible because they can sense your emotions.” Source: Rebecca McMann, dog trainer	

This really long quote needs proper attribution added in. How would you do it? “Hiking can really take its toll on a person’s body, especially depending on how much weight they carry. The load of a backpack plus the pressure exerted when you travel downhill is hard on your joints.” Source: physical education teacher Carol Wilder	
Fix this quote’s formatting error. “I much prefer Frito pie over nachos.” said Laura Snow.	
The attribution here is incorrect because it comes at the start of the quote. How would you fix it? When asked about her summer plans, sophomore Hailey Smith said, “I just hope I get to catch up on some sleep.”	