

**Blending Quotations in Formal Writing: All quotations must be introduced *beforehand* and cited *afterward*.**

**Here are the three main methods of blending quotations.**

1. The formal “**colon method**” of blending quotations requires **your own full sentence introduction** and then a **full sentence quotation**:

Oscar Wilde demands that we be ourselves: "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken" (Wilde 93).

2. The “**dialogue method**” of blending quotations starts with **your own signal phrase\* introduction**; in formal writing, this introduction is usually a subordinate clause. Here’s a good example:

As Oscar Wilde says, "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken" (Wilde 93).

3. The “**portion method**” of blending quotations **requires you to provide most of the text in your own words** and use only a portion of the source material. Here’s a good example:

Oscar Wilde argues for individual originality because “everyone else is already taken” (Wilde 93).

OR

Oscar Wilde suggests that “everyone else is already taken”, so focus on your own originality (Wilde 93).

\*Common signal phrase verbs include *argue, assert, claim, comment, confirm, contend, declare, deny, emphasize, illustrate, imply, insist, note, observe, point out, report, respond, suggest, think, and write*. Avoid the blandness of *say* and *tells*. (<https://www.thoughtco.com/signal-phrase-grammar-and-composition-1692095>)

**Citing Quotations: Here is the citation format for the MLA system.**

- A. Author’s last name and page number:

Oscar Wilde demands that we be ourselves: "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken" (Wilde 93).

- B. If the previous quotation is from the same author but from a different page:

As Oscar Wilde has said, "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken" (ibid 452).

- C. If the previous quotation is from the same author and the same page:

Oscar Wilde argues for individual originality because “everyone else is already taken” (ibid).

After a second author is quoted, and you wish to quote Wilde again, then return to A. and start over.

In an exam, use the following simplified MLA system:

- D. If only **one author and one article/story** is discussed in your response:

Oscar Wilde demands that we be ourselves: "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken" (para. 6).

- E. If only **one author and one poem** is discussed in your response

Oscar Wilde emerges from his youth a more mature man: "From the wildness of my wasted passion I had struck a better, clearer song" (line 3).

- F. If **two or more authors** are discussed in your response:

Oscar Wilde emerges from his youth a more mature man: "From the wildness of my wasted passion I had struck a better, clearer song" (Wilde line 3).

OR

Oscar Wilde emerges from his youth a more mature man: "From the wildness of my wasted passion I had struck a better, clearer song" (Wilde para. 3).