



Quoting

Imagine that you're writing an essay. The topic is:

'Describe some of the challenges faced by student nurses, and ways that these challenges can be overcome.'

You have decided to discuss the essay topic in two parts: clinical challenges and personal challenges.

This is a paragraph from one of the sources you found in your research:

The challenge for you as a student nurse is to move beyond mastering the skills of data collection to develop your confidence in analysing and interpreting findings, identifying and clustering abnormal data and determining nursing priorities. Although beginning nurses lack the depth of knowledge and expertise that experienced nurses have, they can still learn to improve their clinical judgement skills. Etheridge (2007) found that new nurse graduates learned to "think like a nurse" and develop confidence in making clinical judgements through multiple clinical experiences with a wide variety of patients, support from educators and experienced nurses, and sharing experiences with their peers. Making the most of clinical placements by seeking opportunities to develop these skills is essential in the transition from student nurse to beginning practitioner.

This paragraph is from a textbook by Lewis & Foley. The full citation (APA style) for a reference list is as follows:

Lewis, P., & Foley, D. (2014). *Health assessment in nursing*. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer / Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

How will you use this source as evidence for your claims?

Your first paragraph on clinical challenges begins as follows:

Student nurses face multiple challenges in the clinical environment. Lewis and Foley (2014) said nurses can learn to improve their clinical judgement skills.

What's wrong with the above use of the source? Is it:

- A. using the same words as the original
- B. presented without context

- C. taken out of context of the original source
- D. all of the above

OK, all of the above are true, so let's rewrite. The topic sentence is still appropriate, so it's only the use of the source that we need to change:

Student nurses face multiple challenges in the clinical environment. One such challenge is inexperience, especially when compared to their more experienced colleagues. However, Lewis and Foley (2014, p. 61) note that nurses “can still learn to improve their clinical judgement skills”.

Now the evidence from the source has been clearly identified in its context, it has context in the paragraph, and quotation marks are used to show that the words have come straight from the source.

When using direct quotations, bear in mind the following tips:

- Quote accurately and double-check with the original source.
- Do not quote out of context.
- Cut down lengthy quotes if not all of the information is relevant.
- Take care to note where you have omitted information.
- Use a combination of short and long quotations as appropriate.
- Include the page number where the quotation can be found in the source
- Follow the formatting rules of the citation style you are using, especially for long quotations.
See the University Library's [Referencing and Citation guide](#) for assistance with different styles.
- Ensure smooth integration with your own writing so that you maintain the sense and grammar of the quote.

More information

- UNSW: Selecting information for assignments
- UniLearning: Notetaking: Direct and indirect quotes
- University of Adelaide: To paraphrase or to quote? (PDF, 354 kB)
- Royal Literary Fund: Direct quotation, paraphrasing and referencing
- The Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill: Quotations
- Deakin University: Summarising, paraphrasing and quoting