

Avoid Plagiarism!

Properly Embed Quotations

When you use a quotation in your writing, you must provide a context for the reader to understand why you chose to use that particular quotation and what your analysis means. If you embed your quote well, your reader will easily understand:

- Who said the quote
- Who the speaker is talking to
- What was happening when he or she said it

I think I've been
misquoted!

EXAMPLE: In his defense of the social contract, in his book of the same name, Rousseau said, "Finally, each man, in giving himself to all, gives himself to nobody," and he went on to explain how such could be the case.

DIRECTIONS: Practice embedding quotes. Pull a brief quotation from each passage below and compose a sentence that includes the quotation you chose, gives its context, and indicates some point you are trying to make.

1. In the 4th century B.C., Socrates was charged with corrupting the youth of Athens. He gave a famous speech in his own defense, now known as The Apology. Excerpt:

I am going to explain to you why I have such an evil name. When I heard the answer, I said to myself, what can the god mean? and what is the interpretation of this riddle? for I know that I have no wisdom, small or great. What can he mean when he says that I am the wisest of men? And yet he is a god and cannot lie; that would be against his nature.

Name _____

2. The following excerpt is taken from John F. Kennedy's inaugural address in 1961.

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility — I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it. And the glow from that fire can truly light the world. And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.

3. Addressing Mikhail Gorbachev in front of the Berlin wall in 1989, U.S. President Ronald Reagan gave a speech promoting Western values. Excerpt:

And now — now the Soviets themselves may, in a limited way, be coming to understand the importance of freedom. We hear much from Moscow about a new policy of reform and openness. Some political prisoners have been released. Certain foreign news broadcasts are no longer being jammed. Some economic enterprises have been permitted to operate with greater freedom from state control. Are these the beginnings of profound changes in the Soviet state?
