

## Using quotations in a formal literature essay

**Below are three different ways of using quotation. Look at these different approaches and read the comments that follow.**

1. "I am weary; give me leave a while.  
Fie how my bones ache! What a jaunce have I."  
This quotation shows that the Nurse is teasing Juliet by making her wait for her news about Romeo. Juliet has just asked her to tell the news.
2. The Nurse's response to Juliet's eagerness to hear her news is to tease her by complaining that she is "weary" and her "bones ache," and that she needs "leave a while" to recover from her jaunce."
3. Juliet wants to know the Nurse's news about Romeo. The Nurse won't tell her saying:  
  
"I am weary; give me leave a while.  
Fie, how my bones ache! What a jaunce have I."

**Number 2. is an example of the best way to use quotation. The writer has used short quotations and woven them into the flow of her own sentence to make a point about the character of the Nurse.**

**Although number 1. makes the point, it is more clumsy than 2. "This quotation shows..." is awkward and the quotations are longer than they need be.**

**Number 3. hardly makes the point at all. The writer is simply telling the tale, saying who said what.**

**Remember: keep quotations short and frequent  
use phrases rather than sentences.**