Using Quotes to Prove Your Point

Reminders:
1) **Never string quotes** consecutively.
2) **Never just drop a quote** in without prefacing or integrating it into a sentence of your own.
3) Always consider which will be more effective, a quote or a paraphrase. Cite both.
4) Always make explicit in your own words the connection that the quote has to your point, your thesis, or your example. Do not simply leave this to the reader's imagination.
5) Always identify the part of the quote that is really crucial before trying to decide how you will integrate it. **Use only what you need!**
6) In this length paper you should not use more than two block quotes. You do not block a quote unless the quote covers more than 4 full lines of your typed text. See sample essay for format for blocked quotes.

Look at the sample essay for illustrations of how to work quotes into your text. Pages 72 and 73 in the MLA handbook and the Purdue website - [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03/) are helpful references, too.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Note the different ways to format and **punctuate**.

**Direct quotes from the novel:**

As Jessamine’s character evolves, she becomes more and more troubled: “I don’t know how much longer I can stand it!” (Caldwell 16)

The difficulties Jessamine confronts become obvious when she admits “I don’t know how much longer I can stand it” (Caldwell 16).

By the time Jessamine announces that she doesn’t “know how much longer I can stand it,” the reader is aware she is deeply troubled (Caldwell 16).

**Direct quotes from critics:**

According to critic Jon Knowles, a coming-of-age novel “must, by its very definition, be realistic” (62).

According to one critic, a coming-of-age novel “must, by its very definition, be realistic” (Knowles 62).

One comment that shows this distinction is the idea that “The horror genre appeals to a wide audience because all readers have felt fear” (*Critical Temer*).

*no author or page number is available, so the title is used in parenthetical since that’s what it’s alphabetized under in the Works Cited

**Paraphrase:**

Realism is a necessary characteristic of a coming-of-age novel (Knowles 62).