

Guidelines for Using TEXTUAL EVIDENCE in an Anthropological Argument

Quote from the text

when the author's **word choice** is important.

when you are making a very **specific point** about a transcript.

Use paraphrase or summary.

when you are referring to a **general** fact about the topic.

when you provide a detail about the culture, practice, interaction, or belief.

Quote extensively (a block quotation—more than three lines) *ONLY*

when the quotation is **crucial**, perhaps central, to your argument and will lose its effect if paraphrased.

when you have a **great deal to analyze** in the transcript.

when you are writing a relatively **long paper** (perhaps over six pages).

Introducing Quoted Material into Your Prose

Always remember to

transition smoothly and **grammatically** from your prose to the quotation;

connect the quotation to your prose using a **colon or comma**, not a semicolon or period;

punctuate correctly: place periods and commas **inside** quotation marks, semicolons, colons, question marks, exclamation points, and page numbers **outside**:

Examples of correct uses of textual evidence

Shostak's conversation with a twelve-year-old girl uses !Kung-style teasing to collaborate with the girl's positive self appraisal: "Beautiful? Perhaps my eyes have become broken with age that I can't see where it is?" (1981, p. 241).

OR, if quoting a longer passage—

Shostak's conversation with a twelve-year-old girl uses !Kung-style teasing to collaborate with the girl's positive self appraisal:

"So ugly! How is such a young girl already so ugly?" She laughed. I asked, "You don't agree?" She beamed, "No, not at all. I'm beautiful!" She continued to look at herself. I said, "Beautiful? Perhaps my eyes have become broken with age that I can't see where it is?" She said, "Everywhere—my face, my body. There's no ugliness at all." (1981, p. 241)