

1. Why we need quotes: They make stories interesting and allow the writer to insert people's opinions into a story without editorializing. They help us to see the subject from an insider's perspective. And you will never, ever make your word count without quotes.

2. How to get good quotes- good interviews! ALWAYS come prepared with at least 10 questions. Some should be to get basic facts down and others should be aimed at getting interesting quotes.

Good types of questions:

1. What is your favorite part of...
2. What is the hardest part of....
3. What was your reaction when...
4. What is a common misconception people have about...

DON'T EVER ASK THEM TO "GIVE YOU A QUOTE."

\*\*\*\* Use a voice recorder!

3. What quotes do I use?

"The event happened on November 6th" is not a good quote. Don't quote something that can be stated as fact- reserve quotes for reactions, opinions, personal experiences etc.

4. What do I never, ever do when quoting?

A. Make quotes up. (I don't even need to explain this to you.)

B. Misquote. Even if you rearrange a few words, or reword what they said to mean a similar thing, it is still misquoting!

Ex) "This is such a great organization" -----> "This organization does so much for the community." :( :( :(

What can you do? Use [ ] and .....

"They are my favorite part of teaching." -----> "[My students] are my favorite part of teaching."

"I love teaching, you know, because you see me in class, right? The students are so great."  
-----> "I love teaching....the students are so great."