How to Include Primary and Secondary Sources

1. Including short quotations: (simply add the quotation into your sentence)

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

1. Including longer quotations (4 lines or more): (you need to introduce quotation with a colon, indent your quotation, double space, no quotation marks are needed)

In his poem "My Papa's Waltz," Theodore Roethke explores his childhood with his father:

The whiskey on your breath
Could make a small boy dizzy;
But I hung on like death:
Such waltzing was not easy.
We Romped until the pans
Slid from the kitchen shelf;
My mother's countenance
Could not unfrown itself. (202)

1. Changing quotations (omitting or changing words): (place a square bracket around the word (s))

Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states, "some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78).

\*examples are taken from owl purdue website, see MLA website for more detail