

Citing a scholar's work

Footnote = scholar's thoughts but my own words

Quotation marks + footnote = scholar's words exactly

“At the third occurrence, Eli suddenly perceived what was happening and gave Samuel a proper liturgical response that he could make if someone called again.”

WRONG WAYS OF CITING A SCHOLAR

1. Quoting exactly without quotation marks:

Klein says that Eli suddenly perceived what was happening and gave Samuel a proper liturgical response that he could make if someone called again.¹

¹ Ralph W. Klein, *1 Samuel*, WBC 10 (Waco, Tx.: Word, 1983)

2. Quoting with a few words changed and without quotation marks:

Klein says that Eli perceived what was happening and gave the boy a liturgical response if God called again.¹

¹ Ralph W. Klein, *1 Samuel*, WBC 10 (Waco, Tx.: Word, 1983)

CORRECT WAY OF CITING A SCHOLAR

1. Quote exactly with quotation marks—all or part of the sentence:

As Klein says, at the third time “Eli suddenly perceived what was happening and gave Samuel a proper liturgical response that he could make if someone called again.”¹

¹ Ralph W. Klein, *1 Samuel*, WBC 10 (Waco, Tx.: Word, 1983)

2. Paraphrase completely:

The third time Eli understood that the Lord was calling Samuel and taught him how to give the correct response.¹

¹ Ralph W. Klein, *1 Samuel*, WBC 10 (Waco, Tx.: Word, 1983)

3. Use just a memorable phrase in quotation marks:

When Eli finally understood that the Lord was calling Samuel, he taught him, as Klein puts it, the “proper liturgical response” in case he called again.¹

¹ Ralph W. Klein, *1 Samuel*, WBC 10 (Waco, Tx.: Word, 1983)

Note: Although Klein's sentence is used as an example, even if you cite him correctly, it is still a poor use of a scholar's work. Notice that he says nothing in that sentence that you can't find in 1 Sam 3:8-9, except the phrase “liturgical response”. *It is better to cite scholars for opinions and views they hold or observations they make that illumine the text.*

OBSERVATION THAT ILLUMINES THE TEXT

“The image of the ‘tingling ears’ is a stock metaphor, and always indicates bad news (2 Kgs 21:12; Jer 19:3).”

1. Quoting exactly:

Firth observes that “The image of the ‘tingling ears’ is a stock metaphor, and always indicates bad news (2 Kgs 21:12; Jer 19:3).”¹

¹ David G. Firth, *1 & 2 Samuel*, AOTC 8 (Nottingham: IVP Academic, 2009), 78.

2. Paraphrasing:

As Firth notes, the expression of “tingling ears” (v.11) is a well-known phrase that suggests “bad news” (2 Kgs 21:12; Jer 19:3).¹

¹ David G. Firth, *1 & 2 Samuel*, AOTC 8 (Nottingham: IVP Academic, 2009), 78.