The Art of Citation  
(Tech Talk for Thursday, February 26, 11:30-12:15)

Source Usage

Types of source usage:
- Quotation (verbatim, word-for-word the same as the original)
- Paraphrase (re-worded, often with different syntax and vocabulary)
- Summary (broad and general)
- Data (incorporated into tables, illustrations, etc.)

Be aware that all of the above require accurate citation. In situations where you are citing facts or “common knowledge,” it is important to consider your audience, as what is known to one group or discipline may be outside the realm of another. When in doubt, cite such information using credible academic sources.

Good motivations for direct quotation:
- You want to use the source as an artifact to analyze or build upon.
- You want to distance yourself from a controversial statement or idea.
- You feel the quote is articulate and borders on true art.

Poor motivations for direct quotation:
- You do not understand the original language.
- You need to reach a prescribed word count.
- You don’t know how to otherwise incorporate or paraphrase the source.

Block quotes:
- Unmotivated block quotes are often worse than no quotes at all. Block quotes should be used sparingly.
- The formal definition of a block quote is as follows (CMS §13.10): “A hundred words or more (at least six to eight lines of text in a typical manuscript) can generally be set off as a block quotation. Other criteria apply, however.”
- In practice, block quotes are often much shorter (perhaps four or five lines), and the seminary’s templates allow any length of quote to be placed in block format.

Substantive (a.k.a. Discursive) Footnotes

It is allowable to add further discussion or contextualization within your footnotes. While disciplines differ regarding the degree to which they encourage or discourage the practice, theology has adopted such footnotes wholeheartedly. The following are some common reasons why you may want to consider including content in footnotes:
- To describe an observation not crucial to the body of the text, but which might clarify an issue for your readers.
• To acknowledge assumptions or gaps in your analysis which you do not want to go unaddressed, but which are outside the scope or space of the main text.
• To explicate information (e.g., etymologies, source texts, etc.).
• To discuss the credibility, bias, or historicity of your source materials.
• To make connections between claims, sources, etc.

Such footnotes vary in their complexity. In their simplest form, they may contain no citation and function only to clarify the text above:

33 Koester’s reference here to Pseudo-Denys is to the pseudoepigraphic author also known as Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite (ca. 5th to 6th century CE), author of the Corpus Areopagitum (also known as the Corpus Dionysiacum).

For substantive footnotes that employ sources or quotes, there are three steps:
• Introduce the author(s) you will be drawing from in the footnote.
• Include any quotation.
• Conclude with citation in CMS style.

For example, a footnote on how Martin Luther’s theology was influenced by his upbringing may look like this:

34 On the topic of Luther’s humble background, Roland H. Bainton claims that “the atmosphere of the family was that of the peasantry: rugged, rough, at times coarse, credulous, and devout. [Luther’s father] prayed at the bedside of his son, and [his mother] was a woman of prayer.” Roland H. Bainton, Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther (Nashville, TN: Abington, 1995), 19.

If reporting information from a secondary source, this can be clarified by both the lead-in to the quote and the citation (CMS §14.33):

35 On the topic of Luther’s vocational decision making, Roland H. Bainton quotes Luther as saying that “[his] mother caned [him] for stealing a nut, until the blood came. Such strict discipline drove [him] to the monastery, although she meant it well.” Quoted in Roland H. Bainton, Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther (Nashville, TN: Abington, 1995), 17.

In the above example, we avoid ambiguity of authorship by clarifying the provenance of the quote prior to encountering it (in this example, a source within a source). And just as the CMS allows you to abbreviate publication information upon subsequent usage, the same can be done for substantive footnotes:

36 Bainton, in attempting to describe what set Luther apart from his contemporaries regarding his attitude toward religion, cites “recurring periods of exaltation and depression of spirit.” Ibid., 20.

Finally, if the source you are drawing from has been cited earlier and is clear in the context of the footnote, CMS allows for parenthetical citation in footnotes (CMS §14.34):

37 However, Bainton rejects the interpretation that Luther suffered from what we today would call manic depression, given Luther’s prodigious theological accomplishments (20).