


Do I need to use a quotation? 

Start here

Does the quote provide evidence for an *interpretive* claim or *textual* analysis?

No

Yes

Are you quoting an obviously appropriate authority / expert?

No

Yes

A quotation won't do; you need an argument.

Is the point you are quoting relatively unique or original to the quoted author?

No

Yes

Is the *specific* wording in the quotation *essential*?

No

Yes

Usually, you should paraphrase in your own words. Use direct quotations *sparingly*.

Is your interpretation of the quoted text controversial in any way?

No

Yes

Use the quote in a *quote sandwich* structure

The alternative to a quote sandwich structure is a free-floating quotation, often forced into the grammar of your own sentences. Occasional usage where the author has coined a term or turn of phrase that is particularly important is fine, but this is extremely easy to overdo. If the quote is not worth analyzing, it is often not worth quoting either.

Introduce and frame the quote

Quote

Analyze the quote and connected it to your main argument

And never end a paragraph with a quotation!