

Citations for Thought Papers

Consider this copied/pasted text from an [online article](#):

The debate Thursday is certain to be lively, with Google's top lawyer, David Drummond, squaring off against Amazon's top public policy executive, Paul Misener. Other speakers include Paul Aiken of the Authors Guild, Marc Mauer of the National Federation of the Blind and David Balto of the Center for American Progress, who support the deal.

Here is the MLA style of footnoting (for example; created with [easybib.com](#)):

Helft, Miguel. "Congress to Weigh Google Books Settlement." *The New York Times*. 9 Sept. 2009. Web. <<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/09/congress-to-weigh-google-books-settlement/?ref=technology>>.

How to cite in your paper:

OK – using the author's idea, but not exact words

At the hearing on Thursday, sparks will probably fly as David Drummond from Google will speak along with Paul Misener from Amazon.¹

OK – quoting the author and using brackets to indicate your changes

"The [Competition and Commerce in Digital Books hearing] is certain to be lively with Google's top lawyer, David Drummond, squaring off against Amazon's top public policy executive, Paul Misener."²

OK – quoting the author and using ellipses to omit things in the middle of the sentence

I think that the debate, which will include "David Drummond squaring off against...Paul Misener," has the potential to radically alter literature e-commerce.³

Not OK – using the author's exact words without quotation marks (even if you cite it)

The hearing scheduled for Thursday will include David Drummond, squaring off against Amazon's top public policy executive, Paul Misener.⁴

Not OK – using the author's idea without a citation

At the Congressional hearing on Thursday, sparks will probably fly as David Drummond from Google will speak along with Paul Misener from Amazon.

If in doubt about whether to quote and/or cite, err on the side of caution.

¹ Helft, Miguel. "Congress to Weigh Google Books Settlement." *The New York Times*. 9 Sept. 2009. Web. <<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/09/congress-to-weigh-google-books-settlement/?ref=technology>>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.