

INTEGRATING QUOTATIONS

BEGINNING TIPS

- Quotations cannot be dropped into an essay. Instead, quotations should be logically and smoothly integrated within the essay.
- To integrate a quotation properly within a paragraph a good writer usually writes one sentence to introduce the quotation, a second that includes the quotation and a third (or more) sentence/sentences to comment on the significance of the quotation.
- In a formal or literary essay, you must use support to strengthen your argument. You may, and should, use quotations as support. Be sure that all quotations are properly cited with parenthetical references and with entries on the Works Cited page.

SMOOTHLY INTERGRATING QUOTATIONS

Example:

Original Quote: “The shadow of a cloud moved across the field of grain and she saw the river through the trees.”

Smoothly Integrated Quotation: Hemingway uses the image of a momentary darkness to suggest the woman’s growing disillusionment. After her quarrel with the man, “[the] shadow of a cloud moved across the field...” (Hemingway 21). A similar shadow gradually develops over their relationship.

Not Smoothly Integrated Quotation: Brinker becomes disillusioned with the war, and Ralph becomes disillusioned with the glory of being chief. “He found himself understanding the wearisomness of this life, where every path was an improvisation and a considerable part of one’s walking life was spent watching one’s feet” (Golding 76).

ELLIPSES USED IN QUOTATIONS

- Ellipses indicate that some unnecessary words have been left out of a quotation.
- When you quote just a single word of a short phrase, no ellipsis is necessary.
- Also, do not use an ellipsis to indicate that you have left out the beginning of a sentence; only missing words from the end or somewhere other than the beginning of sentence need to be indicated with an ellipsis.
- Ellipses can either look like this “...” or like this “[...]”

BRACKETS USED IN QUOTATIONS

- Use brackets to indicate any changes you make to quotations while integrating them into your sentences (for reasons of style, verb tense, or general understanding).

Example:

Original: “You don’t have to call me by it if you don’t want to,” said Wangero.

Bracketed Quote: The new and supposedly improved Dee tells her mother that she doesn’t ““ have to call [Dee] by [her new name] if [she doesn’t] want to”” (Longlee 234).

CITATIONS WITH QUOTES

- The citation follows the quote in parenthesis – last name of author followed by the page number.
- See previously cited quote.
- The punctuation always goes after the quote.
 - After her quarrel with the man, “[the] shadow of a cloud moved across the field...” (Hemingway 21).

SIGNAL PHRASES

- Signal phrases often include verbs that indicate the source of the author’s attitude or approach to what he or she says.

Author is neutral:

Comments
Describes
Explains
Illustrates
Notes
Observes
Points Out
Records
Relates

Author suggests:

Analyzes
Asks
Assesses
Concludes
Considers
Finds
Predicts
Proposes
Reveals

Author argues:

Claims
Contends
Defends
Holds
Insists
Maintains

Author is uneasy:

Belittles
Bemoans
Complains
Condemns
Deplores
Deprecates
Derides
Disagrees
Laments
Warns

Author agrees:

Admits
Agrees
Concedes
Grants

THREE WAYS OF INTEGRATING QUOTATIONS INTO YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Quotations that are only a few words long and which are not introduced with a colon: These quotations should flow smoothly with your sentence.**

Example:

In Atticus's summation, he claimed that Tom Robinson's only crime was the fact that he had the "unmitigated temerity to feel sorry for a white woman" (Lee 204).

- 2. Quotations that are less than three lines long and are introduced with a colon: Again, these quotations should flow with the text of your essay but they follow an independent clause (a sentence) and provide further explanation and support for the reader. These quotes are not indented.**

Example: In his summation, Atticus explains that Tom Robinson committed no legal crime; however, he was guilty of violating a social code when he admitted that he felt compassion for Mayella Ewell, a white woman: "And so a quiet, respectable, humble Negro who had the unmitigated temerity to 'feel sorry' for a white woman has had to put his word against two white people's" (Lee 204).

- 3. Quotations that are longer than three lines: These quotations are:**
- a) introduced with a colon,**
 - b) indented,**
 - c) set off from your text,**
 - d) single-spaced; and,**
 - e) the punctuation goes before the parenthetical reference.**

Example: In his summation, Atticus explains that Tom Robinson committed no legal crime; however, he was guilty of violating a social code when he admitted that he felt compassion for Mayella Ewell, a white woman. He also points out the differences between Robinson and his accusers:

So a quiet, respectable, humble Negro who had the unmitigated temerity to 'feel sorry' for a white woman has had to put his word against two white people's...The witnesses for the state, with the exception of the sheriff of Maycomb County, have presented themselves...to [the] court in the cynical confidence that their testimony would not be doubted. (Lee 204)

4. **Poetry and Shakespeare are quoted in the same way as prose quotations;** however, use a backslash (/) to indicate the end of a line of poetry. NOTE: You would use the backslash only if the quotation is shorter than three lines.

Example: In Dylan Thomas' "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night", the voice in the poem pleads with his father to fight death: "Do not go gentle into that good night/Rage, rage against the dying of the light" (Thomas 41).

If the quotation from the poem is longer than three lines, follow the format outlined above (in number 3) but follow the poet's original line divisions. Do NOT use quotation marks if the quote is indented.

Example:

Romeo outlines, to Friar Lawrence, the extent of his misfortune:

Thou canst not speak of that thou dost not feel.
Wert thou as young as I, Juliet thy love,
An hour but married, Tybalt murdered,
Doting like me, and like me banished,
Then mightst thou speak, then mightst thou tear thy hair
And fall upon the ground as I do now
Taking the measure of an unmade grave (Shakespeare 58).

POSTIONS FOR INSERTING QUOTATIONS

Final Position

For several reasons, "all of them, all except Phineas, constructed at infinite cost to themselves these Maginaot Lines against an enemy they thought they saw across the frontier" (Verne 125).

Beginning Position

"Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy[.]" declares Golding's narrator at the end of the his novel (Golding 202).

Middle Position

In the same way William Golding's novel has been considered a "body of work that speaks to the tragedy of the human condition," John Knowles' *A Separate Peace* can be considered a work of literature that focuses on the dark instincts of the human heart (Walken 69).

FINAL TIPS:

- Quotes are used to not only enhance your paper, but more importantly to provide support to your own thoughts and ideas.
- A paper that does not incorporate quotes lacks credibility and academic strength.

- Do not overuse quotations. They are used to support your argument, not to overtake it.
- Use quotations that are **relevant** to your argument.
- Remember that you cannot simply drop in a quotation.
- Quotes must be integrated smoothly into the essay to give the appearance that the quotes are your own words.
- A quote must not stand out by itself as one sentence.
 - It must have a signal phrase or must be followed by a commentary.
- When introducing a quotation, NEVER say “This quote shows” or “the following quote shows”.
- Never end a paragraph with a quotation. You must always provide further comment. You should have the last word.