

Embedding Quotations

The Big Idea

- You've written an insightful claim and found a great supporting quote.
- Now, you need to integrate that quote into your writing.
- How should this be done?

Common Pitfalls

- The “loose balloon” (dropped quotes)
- Quotes need to be “held down” with your own writing.
- If not, they are disconnected from your other ideas.

Examples of Loose Balloons

- T.S. Eliot, in his "Talent and the Individual," uses gender-specific language. "No poet, no artist of any art, has his complete meaning alone. His significance, his appreciation is the appreciation of his relation to the dead poets and artists" (Eliot 29).
- Holden gets frustrated and decides to leave. "People are always ruining things for you" (Salinger 88).
- The narrator feels powerless against the Burmese. For example, "I knew they would laugh at me if I backed down. And that would never do" (Orwell).

How do I fix it?

- Using signal phrases
- Learn the 4 Methods to integrate your quotes

Sample Signal Phrases

Comments	Describes	Insists	Responds
Adds	Compares	Disputes	Maintains
Reveals	Admits	Concludes	Emphasizes
Notes	Says	Agrees	Concedes
Observes	Endorses	Shows	Argues
Finds	Considers	Points out	Suggests
Asserts	Predicts	Thinks	Believes
Contends	Refutes	Warns	Claims
Declares	Illustrates	Denies	Implies

Method 1

- Use an introductory or explanatory phrase separated from the quotation with a comma
- Thoreau suggests the consequences of making ourselves slaves to progress **when he says**, "We do not ride on the railroad; it rides upon us."
- In his examination of the values and rhythm of American life, Thoreau **asks**, "Why should we live with such hurry and waste of life?"

Your turn!

- Practice Method #1 by integrating the sample quote with a signal phrase and a comma
- After June's humiliating piano recital, Waverly adds insult to injury.
- "You aren't a genius like me" (Tan 151).
- After June's humiliating piano recital, Waverly adds insult to injury **by declaring**, "You aren't a genius like me" (Tan 151).

Method 2

- Answer the question using THAT plus the QUOTATION
- Thoreau **argues that** "shams and delusions are esteemed for soundest truths, while reality is fabulous."
- Holden gets frustrated and decides to leave, **claiming that** "people are always ruining things for you" (Salinger 88).

Your turn

- Practice Method #2 by integrating the sample quote into your own sentence using “that” and no comma.
- The children learn to leave Boo Radley alone.
- “It’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.”
- The children learn to leave Boo Radley alone after their father told them **that** “it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird” (Lee 86).

Method 3

- Introduce the quotation with a complete sentence and a colon
- In "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For," Thoreau states directly his purpose for going into the woods: "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.
- Thoreau ends his essay with a metaphor: "Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in."

Your turn

- Practice Method #3 by integrating the sample quote into your own sentence using a complete sentence and a colon
- Scout is constantly complaining about being left behind by Jem and Dill.
- “You never let me go anywhere. If you don’t let me go this time I’m gonna tell Atticus on the both of you.
- Scout is constantly complaining about being left behind by Jem and Dill: “You never let me go anywhere. If you don’t let me go this time I’m gonna tell Atticus on the both of you.”

Method 4

- Use short quotations--only a few words--as part of your own sentence.
- In "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For," Thoreau states that his retreat to the woods around Walden Pond was motivated by his desire "to live deliberately" and to face only "the essential facts of life."
- Thoreau argues that people blindly accept "shams and delusions" as the "soundest truths," while regarding reality as "fabulous."
- Although Thoreau "drink[s] at" the stream of Time, he can "detect how shallow it is."

Your Turn

- Practice Method #4 by integrating the author's words into your own sentence. (Hint: you may have to change or eliminate a phrase in the first sentence in order to incorporate the quote).
- Jem constantly tells Scout that she needs to leave him alone because she pesters him with concerns about his safety.
- "Stop acting like a girl"
- Jem constantly tells Scout that she needs to "stop acting like a girl" because she pesters him with concerns about his safety.