

Integrating Quotes

How to do it.

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	Points out	Suggests	Asserts
Considers	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: Make the quotation a part of your own sentence without any punctuation between your own words and the words you are quoting.

- * 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).
- * According to Thoreau, people are too often "thrown off the track by every nutshell and mosquito's wing that falls on the rails."

Method #2: Using 'That'

- * In "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For," Thoreau states directly his purpose for going into the woods when he **says that** "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."
- * *Notice that the word "that" is used in the examples above. "That" replaces the comma which would be necessary without "that" in the sentence*

Your Turn

- * Practice Method #2 by integrating the sample quote into your own sentence using “that” and no comma.
- * Macbeth is worried before he murders Duncan.
- * "Bloody instructions, which being taught, return To plague th'inventor."

- * Before he murders Duncan, Macbeth is worried **that** "Bloody instructions, which being taught, return To plague th'inventor."

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."

Method #3: Using a colon

- * Thoreau summarizes how he thinks we can improve our lives: "Simplify, simplify."
- * This is an easy rule to remember: if you use a complete sentence to introduce a quotation, you need a colon after the sentence. Be careful not to confuse a colon (:) with a semicolon (;).

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."

Method 4: Tips

- * Weave the author's words into your ideas.
- * Use the words as if they were your own.
- * How is Method #4 different from the other methods?

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.

Review: Which Method Is It?

Method 3

A. Atticus metaphorically explains why a man like Boo Radley should be left alone: "it's a sin to kill a mockingbird" (Lee 86).

Method 1

B. Atticus metaphorically explains the reason people should leave Boo Radley alone when he says, "remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird" (Lee 86).

Method 4

C. While bothering Boo Radley and "kill[ing] a mockingbird" are not entirely the same, Atticus was still able to get the children to understand that harming a defenseless person is "a sin" (Lee 86).

Method 2

D. The children learn to leave Boo Radley alone after their father told them that "it's a sin to kill a mockingbird" (Lee 86).

Review: The Proper Punctuation

- Method 1: Someone says, “quotation.”
- Method 2: Someone says that “quotation.”
- Method 3: Complete sentence: “quotation.”
- Method 4: Explanation of author’s “big ideas” and “important quotes.”

A Final Thought

- * All of these methods are meant to guide you to correctly format and smoothly integrate your quotes.
- * When done properly, it shows control and sophistication in your writing
- * Don't rely on just one method. Bring variety into your writing by using different methods at different times.
- * Practice makes perfect. It might take you weeks or years before you feel comfortable!