

Embedding Quotes

First, DO NOT begin your quotes by saying, “Golding writes that...” or “A quote from Chapter three says....” Your task in *embedding* quotes is to fully make them a part of your writing.

1. Use quotes to support your argument, not to replace it.

For this reason, do not include quotes in the thesis, topic sentences, or concluding sentence of your papers. These places are reserved for YOUR words and YOUR argument.

Find quotes that give details to support your argument. Do not just find random quotes to throw in to a paper. Do not find quotes that merely restate your thesis in different words. Your paper is an argument; use quotes as evidence to prove your claim.

2. Put the quote in context.

Give the context and the speaker (when needed) BEFORE the quote

Example:

On Johnny’s first night away from his home, he realizes “to survive [he] had to be hard, had to watch, had to plot and plan, had to study each person he met...”(57).

3. Trim the quote down to less than a sentence.

Forces you to incorporate your own language into the sentence with the quote.

Examples:

Ineffective: On Johnny’s first night away from his home, he is frightened. “He had to survive, had to be hard, had to watch, had to plot and plan, had to study each person he met...”(57).

Effective: On Johnny’s first night away from his home, he realizes “to survive [he] had to be hard, had to watch, had to plot and plan, had to study each person he met...”(57).

4. Make it “flow.”

Read your sentence aloud. Can you “hear” the quotation marks? You shouldn’t be able to.

Examples:

Ineffective: Morris uses the shovel as a symbol of strength in the novel. This is shown when he writes, “the shovel made [Timmy] feel like he was holding the scepter of Zeus” (334).

Effective: Morris uses the shovel as a symbol of strength in the novel. When Timmy finally musters the courage to use the shovel, his hand upon its wooden handle makes him “feel like he was holding the scepter of Zeus”(334).

Applied Practice: Please await instructions from Mr. Huette.