Quotation Integration

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| Quotation “Dos” | Quotation “Don’ts” |
| Do try to work quoted material into your sentence.At this moment, Whitney knew she was “destined for greatness” (54). | Don’t announce quoted materialWrong: This quote shows that…Also Wrong: This means that…Wrong Again: On page 43 it says…Still Wrong: In chapter five the author says… |
| Do eliminate irrelevant material using an ellipsis.Original: The girl, the one with the very brown hair, will be delivering the speech.Modified: Matt declared that “the girl…will be delivering the speech” (447). | Don’t make quoted material its own sentence. All quotations must have lead-ins.Wrong: They were all shocked. “The windmill was in ruins” (71).Correct: At this moment, Whitney knew that “she was destined for greatness” (54). |
| Do use brackets to indicate changes you made to the original material clear.Original: He demonstrated his anger toward the city council.Modified: At all subsequent municipal functions, “[Mayor George Smith] demonstrated his anger toward the city council” (33). | Don’t use quotations to merely repeat and support plot points or just for the sake of having a quote; the quoted material should support your analysis.Wrong: Piggy gives him the glasses to “light the fire” (17).Wrong, too: Piggy showed that others were coming by saying, “There’s one!” (14). |
| Do use a colon to separate your complete sentence lead-in from quoted material.Mollie shows her disdain for the new state of things: “She refused to learn any but the six letters which spelled her own name” (40). | Don’t combine complete sentence lead-ins and complete sentence quotations with only a comma; this creates comma splices.Wrong: Jack represents malevolence and maliciousness throughout the novel, “You’re talking too much…Shut up, Fatty” (18). |
| Do use a comma for brief introductions.As the animals recall, “there was a definite ruling against beds” (79). | Don’t create fragments. Your quotation, with its lead-in, must be a grammatically correct sentence.Wrong: Terence says, “And I myself a sterling lad” (34).Correct: Terence calls himself “a sterling lad” (34). |

Do remember to correctly cite quoted material. See below…

1. Always end your exact words with a page number.

“exact words” (3).

1. If a quote ends with a question mark or exclamation point, then put that punctuation before the close of the quotation marks, to make sure the intended emotion is retained, AND put the period after the parenthetical citation to show it is part of the lead-in and quote.

“During their phone conversation, Toby’s father tries to win Toby over by saying, “I’ve made some mistakes…We all have. But that’s behind us. Right, Tober?” (211).

1. If there is a quotation within the quoted material you are using, then use single quotation marks to set off the inner quotation.

 When Lena shows Ying-Ying around her new house, Ying-Ying complains that “the slant of the floor makes her feel as if she is ‘running down’” (Tan 163).

1. When quoting poetry, cite line numbers, not page numbers. Also, use a slash mark (/) to designate each line break.

 Angelou’s call “Shine on me, sunshine / Rain on me, rain / Fall softly, dewdrops” conveys her desire to shift away from the monotony of housework (15-17).

Think about the statement or argument you’re trying to make.

* *Use evidence (exact words) from the text.*
* Explain how the quoted material proves your topic sentence/thesis statement.

Example One:

At first, Juliet has doubts about her future. *She tells Romeo that the marriage is “too rash, too unadvised, too sudden”* (Shakespeare 645). Juliet’s hesitation illustrates her impressive foresight; she is able to see the possible consequences to their hasty actions.

Example Two:

*Terence, in an effort to counter his friend’s complaint about the mournful nature of his poetry, reminds him, “There’s brisker pipes than poetry”* (16). His ironic suggestion to turn to liquor suggests his attitude that people look to both poetry and alcohol for the wrong reasons.