**QUOTE BLENDING 101 – HOW DO I USE QUOTATIONS IN MY WRITING?**

While quotes provide excellent support for your ideas, make sure your voice shines through the paper, not a patchwork of the words of others. So you need lead-ins (a signal or set-up phrase) to smoothly blend the quotes in with your own words. These lead-in phrases integrate quotations into your text. **Never drop a quotation in your essay without a lead-in phrase – it’s like when you pick up the phone and someone starts talking without saying “hello”!**

In other words, you must use your own words to introduce a quotation. The good old standby--So-and-so said, "blah blah blah"--is the very least you can do. Even better is when you can use some select words and phrases from a quotation and integrate them into a sentence of your own (always putting those words or phrases in quotation marks, though). Using these three types of lead-ins will ensure that your writing has variety:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SOMEBODY SAYS LEAD-IN:**a verb indicates someone is speaking (says, notes, exclaims); punctuate with a comma. This technique also works for the writer writes. | **BLENDED LEAD-IN:**a portion of the quote is blended into your sentence; there is no punctuation between lead-in and quote. | **SENTENCE LEAD-IN:**the lead-in is a complete sentence, and the quote that follows is also a complete sentence; punctuate with a colon. |
| **EXAMPLE:** Examining the relationship between health and homelessness, David Love writes, “homeless children are in bad health twice as often as other children… They are four times as likely to have asthma, and they go hungry twice as often as other children” (24). **NOTE** that when the author’s name is part of your lead-in, you do not include it in the citation – you just put the page number. If there is not a page number, you would not have a citation at all and the period would go inside the quotation marks after children (like the example in the right column). **YOU MAY ONLY USE THE SOMEBODY SAYS LEAD-IN ONE TIME IN YOUR PAPER. ALL OTHERS MUST BE BLENDED OR SENTENCE!!!** | **EXAMPLE:** He goes on to report that homeless children are “in bad health twice as often as other children… They are four times as likely to have asthma, and they go hungry twice as often as other children [who are not homeless]” (Love).**NOTE** that your essay will be in present tense but your quoted material will remain in its original verb tense. **ALSO NOTE** the insertion of the phrase *who are not homeless* in brackets, which allows the sentence to work grammatically and to emphasize. If you need to add a word or phrase for clarity, enclose it in square brackets (not parenthesis).  | **EXAMPLE:** David Love investigates the deleterious affects of homelessness on families and children: “homeless children are in bad health twice as often as other children… They are four times as likely to have asthma, and they go hungry twice as often as other children.”**LIT. EXAMPLE:** When the girl hesitates to run away, Hood shows that he girl’s feeling of loneliness and abandonment is the fuel that flames her rebellion**:** “she didn’t move until the tears rose to meet her color, and then to escape the shame of minding so much, she ran away” (194). |

**Q**UOTE **TIPS**

While quotes provide excellent support to your ideas, avoid over-quoting – think salt; too much of a good thing ruins French fries. So shorten your quotes down to the portion that speaks the strongest.

* **Shorten and paraphrase quotes to what is absolutely essential.
EXAMPLE:** As the girl realizes that her father has abandoned her to a seemingly uncaring grandmother, she flees “to escape the shame of minding so much” (Hood 194).
* **Even one word blended into your sentence can support your ideas:
EXAMPLE:** As the girl realizes that her father has abandoned her to a seemingly uncaring grandmother, she runs away, “blind” with her own anger and pain (Hood 194).

**ALTERING QUOTES**

* If you need to remove a portion of the quote, use ellipsis to indicate what you have removed.
* If you need to add words to a quote to clarify what it means, especially pronouns, use brackets to indicate what words have changed. For clarity in the following example, the pronoun “they” has been changed to “Homeless children.”

**EXAMPLE:** David Love investigates the deleterious affects of homelessness on families and children: “homeless children are in bad health twice as often as other children… [Homeless children] are four times as likely to have asthma, and they go hungry twice as often as other children” (Love).

**Be a qualified quoter; practice with these lead-ins then attack your own writing.**

Match the following examples to the correct type of lead that the sentence utilizes:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | 1. Throughout the play, John Proctor strives to prove his allegiance to Elizabeth: “my wife is innocent, except she knew a [harlot] when she saw one” (Miller 1309).
 | 1. Somebody says lead-in
2. Blended lead-in
3. Sentence lead-in
 |
|   | 1. Reverend Hale’s intentions change as he exclaims, “I denounce these proceedings, I quit this court!” (Miller 1315).
 |
|   | 1. Steinbeck foreshadows Lennie’s troubles early in the novel when

Lennie has “broken [ the mouse] pettin’ it” |
|   | 1. Scout explains to her father why she pummeled Walter Cunningham in the schoolyard: “He made me start off on the wrong foot” (Lee 27).
 |
|   | 1. When Scout and Jem walk home from the pageant, they hear a man “running toward [them] with no child’s steps” (Lee 264).
 |

Find and correct **three** **errors** in the following quotation and citation:

1. Edith Hamilton describes Hera perfectly. “She was the protector of marriage, and married women were her particular care.” (Hamilton 223).

**PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS AND PUNCTUATION**

* Follow your quotations with a citation that lists the author’s last name and the page number.
* Proper citation format: **end of sentence – Author’s last name (space) page number in parentheses – end punctuation mark**

**EXAMPLE:** Atticus believed that we know others by “[walking] around in [their skin]” for a while (Lee 30).

* + **NOTE:** The end punctuation for the sentence goes after the parenthetical citation – to help you remember where the punctuation goes, consider that the end punctuation indicates that the citation belongs with the sentence.
	+ **NOTE:** No matter where your quotation appears in your sentence, the citation appears at the end of the sentence, not at the end of the quotation.
* If you cite two different pages in one sentence, simply place both page numbers, in the order in which they were used, at the sentence’s end, separated by a comma.

**EXAMPLE:** The Cunninghams “paid [Atticus] with what they had” and they “never [took] anything they [couldn’t] pay back” (Lee 21,20).

* If you name the author in your lead-in, just place the page number in your citation without the author’s last name.

**EXAMPLE:** Miller describes Thomas Putnam as a greedy individual who stoops to “killing his neighbors for their land” (1299).

* If your quotation ends with a question mark or an exclamation point, punctuate the quotation with the end mark as it is written in your text while your sentence ends with a period after citation.

**EXAMPLE:** With newfound power as an “official of the court,” Mary Warren returns home with dreadful news; she cries, “I saved [Elizabeth Proctor’s] life today!” (Miller 52, 59).

* If your quotation itself includes a quote, use single quotation marks to enclose the internal quote and distinguish it from the primary quote:

**EXAMPLE:**. At sixteen, however, Alvarez is sometimes taken advantage of by strangers. For example, he is cheated by a man pretending to be a conductor when he takes a bus for the first time: "We both got into the bus, I took a seat and he put my luggage on the overhead rack. 'Ticket,' he demanded. 'How much?' I asked. '25 rupees,' he replied. I handed over the amount to him" (Alvarez 52).

* For quotations of more than four lines of verse or prose, or for dialogue between two characters in a play, place the quoted text in a free-standing block of text and omit quotation marks. However be careful of including too many long quotations as the paper should be written foremost in your voice. Indent the entire quote; maintain double-spacing. Parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.

**EXAMPLE (not double-spaced here, but your paper should be double-spaced throughout):**
Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)