# Integrating Quoted Material

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- ## 3) Authoritative Language

Use quotations when you want to lend the authority and credibility of experts or prominent figures to your writing. If you are writing to persuade, quotations from authoritative sources can be useful in supporting your argument.

# How to Integrate Quotations

- Integrate quotations into your own sentences.
- Don't drop quotations into your text without warning.
- Avoid using quotations alone as sentences.
- Provide clear **signal phrases** to prepare readers for the quotation, and to alert readers to the identity of the speaker quoted.

## **Example**

Michael Crichton argues, "You, or someone you love, may die because of a gene patent that should never have been issued" (538).

# Signal Phrases

- A signal phrase includes the source's name (Michael Crichton in the previous example) and a signal verb (argues).

- You may want to include credentials to help establish the authority of your source

## **Example**

Arnold S. Relman, professor emeritus of Medicine and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, claims that the nation's health care system will need "major widespread changes" (557).

# Active Verbs

- Use active verbs in signal phrases to indicate the author's tone and stance. Is your source arguing a point, making a neutral observation, reporting a fact, drawing a conclusion, refuting an argument, or stating a belief? Choose an appropriate signal verb to make clear the author's stance:

# Active Verb Choices

- acknowledges
- comments
- describes
- maintains
- reports
- adds
- compares
- disputes
- notes
- responds
- admits
- conceives

- emphasizes
- observes
- shows
- agrees
- confirms
- endorses
- points out
- states
- argues
- contends
- illustrates
- reasons

- suggests
- asserts
- declares
- implies
- refutes
- summarizes
- claims
- denies
- insists
- rejects
- writes

# After the Quote

- You may need to interpret or reword a quote for your reader after you cite it.
- If you're writing about literature, you should **always** interpret a quote after citing it.

# Quote **MUST** Read Grammatically

- Make sure the quoted material reads grammatically in your own sentence.

**Clumsy:**  The chemical capsaicin that makes chili hot:  "it is so hot it is used to make antidog and antimugger sprays" (Bork 192).

**Revised:**  Capsaicin, the chemical that makes chili hot, is so strong "it is used to make antidog and antimugger sprays" (Bork 192).

# Grammatical Correctness, cont.

**Verbs/Pronouns don't agree**:  The narrator suggests his bitter disappointment when "I saw myself as a creature driven and derided by vanity."

**Revised:**  The narrator suggests his bitter disappointment when he describes seeing himself "as a creature driven and derided by vanity."

# Punctuation with Quoted Material

- Commas and periods go *inside* the quotation marks.

**Incorrect:** "Overall, government is a good system to provide protection of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness".

- If there's a citation, end quote marks go *before* the citation. Period goes after.

**Correct:** One of Thoreau's main positions is clearly illustrated in the first sentence when he says, "I heartily accept the motto,--'That government is best which governs the least'" (1).

# Colons vs. Commas to Introduce Quotes

- Colons and commas are the **ONLY** types of punctuation used to introduce quotes. Never use semi-colons to introduce quotes.

- In general, use commas for very short introductions to quotes.

- Use colons for longer introductory phrases which are independent clauses (complete sentences). In other words, if using a comma will force you to write a comma splice, use a colon.

- Sometimes, you might not need any punctuation at all, especially if the words "that" or "because" precede the quote.

# Other Conventions

- Indent quotes of 4 lines or more (don't use quotation marks—your indentation serves in place of quotation marks.)

- Use slash marks to indicate line endings in poetry.

- Never put two quotes back-to-back without your own writing in between.

# Remember...

- **YOU** decide when to begin and end quotes. Often incorporating short quotes into your own sentences is more graceful than quoting large chunks of material.

**Examples**

**Unacceptable:** Thoreau writes, "If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government" (8). For him, government is like a machine.

**Okay:** Thoreau says that, if government injustice is small, you should ignore it: "If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government, let it go, let it go: perchance it will wear smooth,--certainly the machine will wear out" (8).

# Even Better Example

**Better:**  Thoreau compares the government to a machine.  He explains that injustice may simply be part of the "necessary friction" of this machine.  If so, it will eventually wear itself out.  However, he says that if the government forces you to be an "agent of injustice to another," then you must act as the "counter friction" to the machine and break the law (8).