

## Strategies for Embedding Quotations

There are three strategies you can use to embed quotations: set off quotations, build in quotations, or introduce quotations with a colon.

### Set-Off/Dialogue Quotations

Set-off/dialogue quotations are set off from the sentence with a comma. Capitalize the first word of the quote. Notice the **signal phrases** used in the following examples.

Sample Signal Phrases			
according to	claims	points out	argues
discusses	proposes	notes	explains
states	writes	demonstrates	says

**EXAMPLE:** **According to** NASA, “The Mars rover landed in August 2012 and is there to discover whether Mars is suitable for life” (3).

### Built-In Quotations

Unlike set-off quotations, built-in quotations are built in seamlessly to a sentence. They are not set off with commas and usually use the word “that” along with a signal phrase. Do not capitalize the first word of these quotes.

**EXAMPLE:** Astronauts at NASA announced that “[t]he Mars rover landed in August 2012 and is there to discover whether Mars is suitable for life” (3).

### Introduce Quotations with a Colon

For this strategy, the signal is a complete sentence that goes before the colon. This sentence provides some information about the quotation to introduce it. The quotation follows the colon, and the first word in the quotation is capitalized.

**EXAMPLE:** Everyone cheered when they heard the following announcement from NASA: “The Mars rover landed in August 2012 and is there to discover whether Mars is suitable for life” (3).

### PRACTICE

Try embedding the following quote into a sentence using all three techniques above.

QUOTE: “People should try to exercise for at least thirty minutes every day.”

**Set-Off:**

**Built-In:**

**With a Colon:**

## Supporting Your Evidence

When we first want to use a quote as direct evidence, we can't just drop it into the essay. This is called a "floating quote" and as a reader, running into a floating quote is like running into a brick wall. To save your reader (and your grade), you need to warn your reader that evidence is on the way, as well as give information (context) about who/what the quote involves. For this we use a TLQ.

**TLQ: Transition, **Lead-In**, Quote**

### Transition

A transitional word or phrase that acts as a signal to the reader. (e.g. for example, for instance, first, finally, to illustrate, etc.)

### **Lead-in**

**This gives the context of the quote. Share who is involved and the basic situation surrounding the quote. This should "lead in" directly to the quote.**

### Quote

The direct quote from the literature, with a citation. OMIT NEEDLESS WORDS using ". . ." and CHANGE PRONOUNS & CAPITALIZATION using "[ ]".

### EXAMPLE

For example, **when Lisbeth realizes the damage she has done and finally feels compassion for Ms. Lottie, she has a realization:** "This was the beginning of compassion, and one cannot have both compassion and innocence" (Collier 307).

### PRACTICE

Write a TLQ incorporating the following quote:

"Despite my hurry, history had invaded my little car. Pangs of self-pity and a sorrow for my unknown relatives suffused me."

