

Quotations: Embedding

Using quotations is important in the writing process because they add strong evidence when used appropriately. However, embedding quotations effectively into sentences is just as important as finding the correct quotations to use. Correctly embedded quotations move the reader from the quoted text back into the paragraph smoothly.

Signal Phrases

Signal phrases introduce the article a quotation is from, the person who said the quotation, or both. They are key for embedding quotations. The signal phrases used in the examples of this handout are written in bold print.

<i>Some Signal Phrases to Use</i>		
according to	claims	points out
discusses	proposes	notes
states	writes	demonstrates
argues	explains	says

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 quotations are set off from the sentence with a comma. Capitalize the first word of the quote. Notice the signal phrases (in bold print) used in the following examples.

<i>Examples of Setting off Quotations</i>		
As Jane Smith explains ,	“A duck’s quack doesn’t echo.”	
“Cheese is the most stolen food in the world,”	according to Jane Smith.	
In the article, Jane Smith writes ,	“Snails can sleep for three years without eating.”	
“Dolph`	s _	Sn\$ _

Examples of Building In Quotations

In the interest of animal sleeping habits, Jane Smith **proposes** that “dolphins sleep with one eye open.”

Jane Smith **points out**, in her article about the sun, that “only 55% of all Americans know that the sun is a star.”

Activity

Embed the following quotations using the name Jane Smith and any of the three techniques for embedding quotations mentioned in this handout. Try using different signal phrases for each one.

- 1.