Integrating Quotations

What is an integrated quotation?

- An integrated quotation is a direct quotation from a source you are working with that is incorporated into your writing.

How can you recognize a poorly integrated quotation?

- If a quotation is standing alone as an entire sentence in your paper, it is poorly integrated.
- If the sentence does not make sense with the quotation incorporated the way it is written, you may need to integrate the quotation differently.
- You may be having trouble correctly integrating quotations if the genders, tenses, or

So how do you correctly integrate a quotation?

There are a few different ways to integrate quotes into your paper.

- It is important to use signal phrases (A.K.A. attributive tags) to introduce your quotation. Signal phrases help the reader to move smoothly from your words to your source’s words. The Learning Center has a separate handout on signal phrases; you should ask about it!
- The ellipsis mark removes unwanted words from a quotation. Using an ellipsis mark indicates that you have deleted words from something you are quoting word-for-word. The ellipsis mark is three periods: . . .
- If you need to add words or phrases to a word-for-word quotation in order for it to make sense, you would use brackets. You would enclose any words you want to add to the quotation between two brackets: [    ].

Examples:

Poorly Integrated Quote: “You don’t have to call him if you don’t want to,” said the boy.

✈ Since we don’t know who “him” is, we should correct it with brackets:
  “You don’t have to call [John] if you don’t want to,” said the boy.

Poorly Integrated Quote: “Amber has been working a lot since she graduated from college in Washington. I never see her anymore,” Jen told us.

✈ I want to omit the words “in Washington” because I do not think it is important, so we should use ellipsis:
  “Amber has been working a lot since she graduated from college. . . I never see her anymore,” Jen told us.

Helpful Hints from Our Writing Tutors

Make sure to follow the correct format for citing sources in your discipline. There are handouts available and sources online for using MLA, APA, ASA, and Chicago citation styles.

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