

INTEGRATING QUOTATIONS FROM SOURCES

Problem

Writers often use quotations from sources to support and develop their own claims and arguments. Less experienced writers risk letting other authors' words, ideas, and claims overwhelm their own, or use quotations out of context in ways that are confusing or change the author's original meaning. Common problems include the following:

- Doing a "drop and run": throwing in a quotation without introduction or comment.
- Letting the quotation have the last word, which forces the reader to figure out the significance of the quotation.
- Quoting information that would better be summarized or left out.

Solutions

ALERT THE READER WHO YOU ARE QUOTING WITH A SHORT SIGNAL-PHRASE LEAD-IN AND COMMA.

Example:

Theater critic Rohan Preston observes, "Director Lou Bellamy has a way of looking so deeply into the theatergoer's soul that audience members often call out involuntarily to characters—responding to their queries and whims, offering advice and succor."

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Although there are "procedural aspects related to the measurement of conditioned inhibition of fear potentiated startle," Engelmann argues that researchers should also be concerned with "the actual conditioning procedure that is used" during training (35).

INTEGRATE PART OF THE QUOTATION INTO YOUR COMPLETE SENTENCE.

Example:

Rohan Preston suggests that Bellamy is a skillful director because he "has a way of looking so deeply into the theatergoer's soul that audience members often call out involuntarily to characters."