

Integrating Quotations Gracefully

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit (provide a citation) whenever you use:

- another person's idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
- quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words;
- paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words.

To do so, one must quote the text

Anyone can stick in a quotation, but it takes some skill to incorporate quotations into your own text without awkward gaps and jerks. You should aim for a seamless texture as you move from your own analysis to the ideas of others and back again to your own comments. Below are some simple patterns that can help you achieve a stylistic smoothness as you integrate source materials into your own writing. Notice the use of quotation marks, citation and period.

- **Quotation in the middle of a sentence:**

Gene grows increasingly more resentful of Finny because “He had gotten away with everything” that should have been sacred to Devon (Knowles, 20).

- **Quotation at the end of a sentence:**

Gene's paranoia leads him to feel that Finny “despised the possibility that I might be head of the school” (Knowles, 52).

- **Quotation divided by your own words:**

“Nothing endures,” the older Gene reflects, “not a tree, not love, not even a death by violence” (Knowles, 14).

- **Introducing a quotation with a colon (longer quotations):**

Brinker Hadley voices Gene's state of mind: “Something just seized you. It wasn't anything you really felt against Phineas, it wasn't some kind of hate you've felt all along” (Knowles, 191).

- **Introducing a quotation with a comma:**

As Gene admits, “I couldn't help envying him that a little, which was perfectly normal” (Knowles, 25).

- **Introducing a quotation using that:**

With overwhelming defensiveness, Finny rues that “I wouldn't have been on that branch except for him” (Knowles, 33).

- **Introducing a quotation using As ___ said,**

The author's opinion of the war creeps into the novel, as John Knowles suggests, "wars were made instead by something ignorant in the human heart" (Knowles, 193).

- **Exception:**

When four or more lines are quoted in an indented block, use a colon to introduce the quotation, use no quotation marks around the quotation, indent the quotes, and place the citation after the period.

In reality, Brinker and Finny shared a view of the war: I had heard this generation-complaint from Brinker before, so often that I finally identified this as the source of his disillusionment during the winter, this generalized, fairly self-pitying resentment against millions of people he did not know. In a way this was Finny's view, except that naturally he saw it comically, as a huge and intensely practical joke, played by fat and foolish old men bungling away behind the scenes. (Knowles, 193)

- **Removing a piece of the text from the quote**

If you remove a word or phrase from a quotation add an ellipsis ... in its place.

"In reality, Brinker and Finny shared a view of the war: I had heard this generation-complaint from Brinker before... the source of his disillusionment" (Knowles, 193).

- **Adding or Changing Words**

If you add a word into a quote use square brackets [] around the word that has been changed.

Jack morality is lost when he understands "the [significance] of the knife descending and cutting into living flesh" of the pig (Golding, 31).

- **Citing the Author's Name**

If you state the author in the sentence, you use the title instead of the authors name in the citation.

Ex. Golding states that "... " (*Lord of the Flies*, 90).

If you don't state the author in the sentence, you provide the authors name in the citation.

Ex. Jack fears killing the pig "because the enormity of the knife descending and cutting into living flesh" (Golding, 31).