Don't Float Your Quotes!!!
Embedded Quotations for Essays

> Effectively incorporating quotes into your writing can be tough. Sometimes less mature writers leave quotes "floating" or unattached to a sentence, which causes confusion and usually results in a loss of meaning. Here are two methods to help you incorporate quotes into a paper instead of leaving them *floating*..........

When incorporating textual evidence from LITERATURE, be sure to use these methods to elevate your writing:

1. **PARAPHRASE: Put the context in your own words**

   Example: After George kills Lennie, Slim tells him he did the right thing (Steinbeck 106-07).

2. **PARAPHRASE WITH TEXT EVIDENCE: Include both paraphrase and quotations together for more effective embedding. *Blend* the text as if the words were already a natural part of your own sentence by providing relevant context in addition to the directly quoted information.**

   Example: After George kills Lennie, Slim comes "directly to George" and says, "'A guy's got to sometimes'" as they leave the river's edge, suggesting that Slim thinks George did the right thing (Steinbeck 107).

3. **USE BRACKETS: Alter a quote for clarity by placing the change in brackets.**

   Original: George said, "That mouse ain't fresh, Lennie; and besides, you've broken it pettin' it" (Steinbeck 39).

   With Brackets: Steinbeck foreshadows Lennie's troubles early in the novel when Lennie has "broken [the mouse] pettin' it" (Steinbeck 39).

4. **USE ELLIPSIS: Omit unnecessary detail in order to be concise by using three periods (called an ellipsis). You do not need ellipsis at the beginning and end of your quotations.**

   Original: "Curley was white and shrunken by now, and his struggling hand had become weak. He stood crying, his fist lost in Lennie's paw" (Steinbeck 68).

   With Ellipsis: As Lennie continued to crush Curley's fist, he turned "white and shrunken…his fist lost in Lennie's paw" (Steinbeck 68).

5. **When Introducing SOURCES from RESEARCH, be sure to TAG (Title-Author-Genre)**
   However, after you introduce a title, use only the author's last name to introduce next text evidence.

   Examples:
   In an article in *Psychology Today*, Gene Braugham states, "insert text evidence" (citation).
   An editorial in the *New York Times* states, "insert text evidence" (citation).

TIPS AND HINTS FOR IMPROVING YOUR WRITING:

Ineffective—Identifying a speaker without context:
Macbeth desperately asks, "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hands?" (II, ii, 59-60)

Revised:
After the murder of the king, as Macbeth experiences the initial pangs of guilt, he wonders if "all great Neptune's ocean" could "wash this blood clean from [his] hands" (II, ii, 59-60).

Ineffective—Disconnected context and text evidencde:
When Paul is leaving the bedside of his dying friend, he is unusually aware of his surroundings. This is shown in the quote, "the earth is streaming with forces which pour into me through the soles of my feet" (33).

Revised:
Because his emotions are swirling as a result of leaving the bedside of his dying friend, Paul experiences "the earth streaming with forces which pour into [him] through the soles of his feet" (33).

Ineffective—Placing the quote before the context:
"Ferocious beasts of the forest who lie in wait for their prey" shows how Frederick Douglass thinks the people are cruel and animal-like.

Revised:
Because Frederick Douglass employs a metaphor to compare white men to "ferocious beasts of the forest who lie in wait for their prey," he substantiates his feeling of paranoia as he escaped slavery and tried to blend in to society.

Ineffective—Empty or meaningless analysis:
The quotations "Some things about living still weren't quite right, though. April, for instance, still drove people crazy by not being springtime" supports this idea.

Revised:
The implication of "April...not being springtime" supports Vonnegut's assertion that trying to control and equalize humanity would cause disarray not only among mankind, but also in the vast realms of nature itself.