Three ways to integrate a quote into your writing:

1. Using a colon − a dot over a dot → :

How to use it

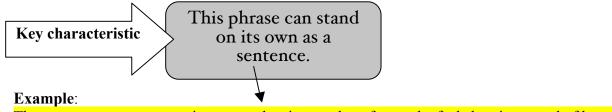
Set up the quote and then present it as **proof** of what you have just said.

Analogy: In court, a lawyer might make a statement, but to prove it, he points to the evidence, which supports and proves the statement he made.

Key Question

Can the phrase before the quote **stand on its own** as a sentence?

If **yes**, then put a colon before the quote.



The narrator seems to experience mood swings and confesses she feels less in control of herself at times: "I get unreasonably angry with John sometimes. I'm sure I never used to be so sensitive" (Perkins 1).

2. Using no punctuation

How to use it

You can mold the author's words in as if they are your own.

In this case, you'll probably be summarizing or paraphrasing the story and at some point decide that **the writer's words are better than yours** – so you use them instead!

Key Question

If you took away the quotation marks, would you put any punctuation in that spot?

- If **no**, then you still don't need any.
- Just let the quotation marks sit there to mark which words are not yours.

No punctuation!

Colon

Quote

Example:

The Misfit claims society has treated him unfairly and adopts the moniker "Mistfit" because he "can't make what all [he] done wrong fit what all [he] gone through in punishment" (O'Connor).

3. Using a comma

How to use it

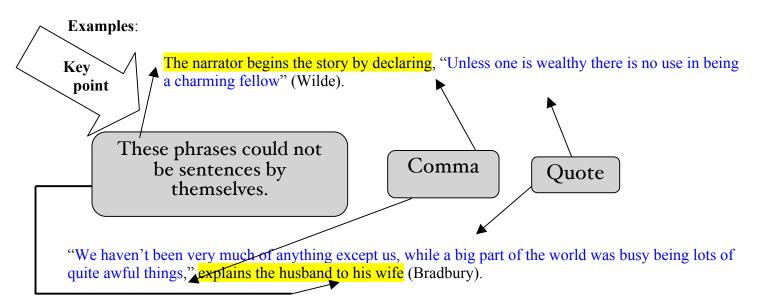
- You can introduce the quote with an introductory phrase that leads into the author's phrasing.
- Or, you can begin a sentence with a quote and attach a phrase at the end.

Analogy: This might feel like you are writing a piece of dialog for a story.

Key Question

Can the phrase before (or after) the quote **stand on** its own as a sentence?

If **no**, then lead into it or out of it with a comma



How do I cite my source and punctuate the end?

