

EmBeDdInG QuOtAtIoNs

Embedding quotations is a sophisticated way to allow the writer to use text evidence in a purposeful manner. By embedding quotations, the writing flows. It is also more concise.

Unembedded quotations are sometimes awkward and disrupt the flow of the writing. They can also make the writing sound choppy.

Embedded quotes is simply using only part of the quotation that you need and embedding, or placing, that quote within the context of your own writing.

Examples:

Serious Room for Improvement:

William Golding's book *Lord of the Flies* is about kids stranded on an island. Some of the kids are good, and some are bad. "Roger, with a sense of delirious abandonment, leaned all his weight on the lever" (Golding 180). So I ask you, what causes irresponsible behavior? Ralph is good, but Jack is bad.

Room for Improvement:

There are bad kids on the island. One of them is Roger. He drops a boulder on Piggy and kills him. "Roger, with a sense of delirious abandonment, leaned all his weight on the lever" (Golding 180). This caused Piggy's death.

A possible revision:

The truest form of wickedness on the island is evident in Roger. He demonstrates his true depravity when, "with a delirious abandonment, [he] leaned all his weight on the lever" (Golding 180). Well aware of Piggy's place beneath him, Roger willingly takes Piggy's life.

BRACKETS [] allow you to do two things: 1. Change the author's original wording 2. Add words for fluency or clarity.

ELLIPSIS (three dots...) allows you to delete a word or words from the original longer quote. Note: You do not need them at the beginning or end of a quote, even if you eliminate words. This is considered a snippet.

Another possible revision:

Roger's murder of Piggy clearly illustrates the depths children can sink to without appropriate supervision. As he stood high above Piggy on the mountain, "Roger, with a sense of delirious

abandonment, leaned all his weight on the lever” (Golding 180). His willingness to welcome the moment with “delirious abandonment” clearly demonstrates the level of pleasure that Roger received by committing this horrific act.

AND JUST ONE MORE LOOK...

The following excerpts come from the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck:

Original Quote: “I ought to have shot that dog myself, George, I shouldn’t ought to have let no stranger shoot my dog.”

Snippet of quote: “I ought to have shot that dog myself” (Steinbeck 27).

Embedding a quote at the beginning of a sentence using a snippet of the quote:

“I ought to have shot that dog myself” laments Candy, as he reflects on how he should have performed this task (Steinbeck 27).

Embedding a quote in the middle of a sentence:

Candy confesses to George and Lennie that he “should have shot that dog” himself, and further notes that he regrets allowing a stranger to do it (Steinbeck 27).

Embedding a quote at the end of a sentence (also referred to using a lead in phrase):

Candy reveals to George his deep regret when he states, “I should have shot that dog myself” (Steinbeck 27).

Embedding several snippets of the quote throughout your sentence:

Candy suffers not only from grief, but from remorse as he reveals the knowledge that he “should have shot that dog” himself and that he “shouldn’t ought to let no stranger” shoot his long time companion (Steinbeck 27).