Connecting the Direct Quote

Avoid *quote plunking*, i.e., dropping a quotation into a paragraph without introducing it.

Below are three ways to smoothly lead into a direct quote.

**Verb, “C…” 1. Use an attributive verb and a comma.**

Examples of attributive verbs are:

says claims notes writes exclaims argues

*(for more attributive verbs, see following chart)*

Follow these verbs with a comma, a space, quotation marks, and then the direct quote starting with a capital letter.

Example:

Karen Jacobs, an occupation therapy professor at Boston University, says, “Backpacks aren’t meant to be life-support systems” (Ruters 34).

**Clause: “C…” 2. Use an independent clause and a colon to introduce a quotation. Follow the colon with one space, quotation marks, and then the direct quote starting with a capital letter.**

Example:

Sergeant Jeff Adams, a former SWAT team member and training officer in Peoria, Illinois, has a solemn message to reluctant trainees: “You are a police officer. . . . Your oath of office promises to serve and protect” (Harper 2).

*Tip: This is an especially good way to introduce a long quote that you’ve indented.*

**That “I…” 3. Use the word “that” to connect the main sentence to the direct quote. No punctuation mark is needed before the direct quote.**

Example:

Geoffrey Wainwright, a researcher of Stonehenge, states that “it’s a natural monument” (Alexander 53).

A note about parenthetical references: They come before the final period of the sentence.