

Introducing Quotations¹

To guarantee that your reader clearly follows your reading, you should introduce your quotes with a signal phrase or marker verb rather than simply plopping the quote down. If you add in a quote without any sort of introduction, your reader may not understand how the quote connects to your paragraph even if it makes sense to you (think of it as a similar to a random thought in a conversation).

Below are some examples of signal phrases and maker verbs that you can use to introduce your quotes:

Signal Phrases	Marker Verbs		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to...• In her article...• In the opinion of ...• (Author's name) shows that...• (Author's name) argues that...• (Author's name) + (a marker verb from the right)	Acknowledges	Writes	Admits
	Agrees	Adds	Asserts
	Believes	Argues	Comments
	Compares	Claims	Declares
	Denies	Confirms	Emphasizes
	Endorses	disputes	Illustrates
	Implies	Grants	Notes
	Observes	Insists	Reasons
	Refutes	Points out	Reports
	Responds	Rejects	Thinks
		Suggests	

For Example:

Dwight Bolinger notes that “in a society where women and farmers are regarded as inferior, sex differences and occupational differences become class differences” (99).

Malcolm X writes, “ I was so fascinated that I went on- I copied the dictionary’s next page. And the same experience came when I studied that. With every succeeding page, I also learned of people and places and events from history” (89).

Elizabeth Wong comments that “The Language was a source of embarrassment. More times than not, I had tried to dissociate myself from the nagging loud voice that followed me wherever I wandered in the nearby American supermarket outside Chinatown” (291).

¹ Adapted from Deanza Community College Writing Center Tutorials.