

Integrating Quotes: The "T.I.E.S." method (stolen liberally from a variety of sources)

Warning: Don't Drop That Quote!

A "dropped" or "floating" quote is one which is simply plopped into a paragraph with no integration with your own words. It's as if you copied and pasted the quote in. To avoid this, use smooth "T.I.E.S." between quotations and your own writing. You needn't use the whole sentence. Chop the quote down to the nugget of meaning that best fits your sentence or paragraph structure.

T.I.E.S.: Tag, Introduce, Embed, Split

(all quotes are cited using MLA guidelines)

- ❖ **Tag:** Quote first, context second.
 - "But the 1950s were not, in the end, as calm and contented as the politics and the popular culture of the time suggested," cautions historian Alan Brinkley, author of *American History: A Survey* (817).
 - "Secretly, of course—I was all for the Burmese," Orwell confides (para.2).
 - "Can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!" counters Gatsby (116).
- ❖ **Introduce:** Context first, quote second.
 - According to historian Alan Brinkley, "the 1950s were not, in the end, as calm and contented as the politics and popular culture of the time suggested" (817).
 - Orwell confides he "was all for the Burmese" (para. 2).
 - In response to Nick's gentle suggestion regarding Daisy, Gatsby exclaims, "Can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!" (116).
- ❖ **Embed:** Context, quote, context.
 - Although the 1950s appeared "calm and contented," this was more of an image created by the "politics and popular culture of the time" rather than reality (Brinkley 817).
 - Orwell was "all for the Burmese" and hated working as an agent of the British Empire in Burma (para. 2).
 - After Nick suggests Gatsby "Can't repeat the past," Gatsby counters, "Can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!" before wildly searching for Daisy.
- ❖ **Split:** Quote, context, quote (note: be sure that the quote is long enough to split)
 - "But the 1950s were not, in the end," Alan Brinkley argues, "as calm and contented as the politics and the popular culture of the time suggested" (817).
 - "Secretly," Orwell confides, "I was all for the Burmese" (para. 2).
 - "Can't repeat the past?" repeats Gatsby, "Why of course you can!" (116).

A note on block quotes:

Generally, long quotations are to be avoided. When a long quotation (4 lines or longer) is absolutely essential (generally, only in a formal paper), it should be set off from the text. Still, it is important to introduce the quotation. A block quote is preceded by a colon and indented 10 spaces. Please note that the quote DOES NOT END THE PARAGRAPH. You must cite the significance!

- ❖ George Orwell had a difficult time acting as a police officer in Lower Burma. As demonstrated in the following excerpt from *Shooting an Elephant*, he was frustrated by his conflicting need to maintain law and order while remaining faithful to the idea that the Burmese had the right to be free:

All this was perplexing and upsetting. For at that time I had already made up my mind that imperialism was an evil thing and the sooner I chucked up my job and got out of it the better. Theoretically—and secretly, of course—I was all for the Burmese and all against their oppressors, the British (para. 2)