

# Quotation Integration (QINT): Everything you need to know

## General Information, Quotation Usage and Tips

### A: Why use quotations?

In essays, reports and other assignments, quotations are used illustrate your ideas and support your arguments. Using evidence to support a claim is a crucial academic skill, so instructors often will require you to use quotations in an assignment. However, throwing a few quotations in to your essay to fulfill a requirement is not enough. It is essential that the quotations you use clearly advance your arguments and ideas. For example, quotations are not needed to give simple plot summary or facts about a text. See the example below:

**e.g. No relevancy:** Margaret Atwood is an “internationally known Canadian writer” (Smith 22). (the quoted material is a simple fact and not significant to an argument)

**Relevant:** Margaret Atwood is a world renowned author. While she has had many best sellers, critics claim her most interesting novels “explore the darker sides of the human psyche” (Smith 22). (the quotation expresses an opinion that could be used to advance or support an argument about Atwood’s work)

### B: Types of Quotations:

There are three main types of quotations:

**1. A short phrase or clause:**

e.g. The soothsayer tells Caesar to “beware the ides of March” (1.2.103).

**2. One sentence that will fit on two or three lines of the essay:**

e.g. Brutus feels that they must kill Caesar with respect. For example, he says to Cassius and the other conspirators, “Let’s kill him boldly, but not wrathfully; / Let’s carve him as a dish fit for the gods” (2.1.92-93).

**3. A long quotation (or a few sentences) that will not fit on just three lines of text:**

e.g. Brutus’ reason for killing Caesar is made especially clear when he addresses the angry Roman public:

If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of  
Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Caesar  
was no less than his. If then that friend demand  
why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer:  
Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. (3.2.18-22)

### C: Integrations of Quotations

Quotations must be tightly integrated into your writing. Quotations cannot stand alone in your essay, nor can they speak for themselves. Furthermore, in addition to supporting your argument, a well integrated quotation will flow logically and seamlessly into the

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fabric of your writing. There are three main steps to integration:

1. **Context and proposition (before the quotation)**
2. **Combining the quotation within your sentence (during the quotation)**
3. **Commenting and analyzing the quotation (after the quotation)**

## D: Examples of Quotation Integration

Most quotation integration errors are one or more of the following errors:

- **QINT-G: Quotation is not integrated grammatically** – Quotations cannot stand alone as sentences; they must be a part of your sentences. As well, the meaning and syntax of the quotation must match grammatically with your sentence. See the examples and tips for combining quotations.
- **QINT-C: Not enough context is provided** - The reader must be given context about where the quotation comes from and the situation surrounding the quotation. As a rule of thumb, the reader should understand your essay and quotation even if they haven't read the material being quoted. As well, the reader needs to know the argument or position that the quotation is going to show or demonstrate.
- **QINT-A: The quotation lacks analysis or explanation of its significance to the argument or idea** – Quotations must serve a specific purpose to the argument or idea being developed. This purpose, however, must be explained. Quotations cannot speak for themselves; you must explain the significance of the quotation and link it to the argument or idea being developed in the paragraph.

\*The following section demonstrates the three errors

## E: Examples of Quotation Integration Errors and Corrections

The following example suffers from all three errors:

**Caesar's failure to listen to warnings leads to his downfall. "He is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass" (1.2.24).**

*- We are left asking: when did this happen? Who is a dreamer? How is this connected to the argument? Also, the quotation stands alone as its own sentence. See the corrections below.*

### Corrections

**Correction #1 (QINT-G):** Caesar's failure to listen to warnings leads to his downfall. He says to Mark Antony, "He is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass" (1.2.24).

*-The quotation is now part of a sentence, but we are still asking: when did this happen? Who is a dreamer? How is this connected to the argument?*

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**Correction #2 (QINT-C):** Caesar's failure to listen to warnings leads to his downfall. For example, when Caesar walks through a crowd of his supporters, a soothsayer warns him to "beware the ides of March" (1.2.103). Caesar says to Mark Antony, "He is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass" (1.2.24).

*-The quotation is now part of a sentence, and we now know the context and situation regarding the quotations, but it is still unclear how the quotation supports the argument of causing his "downfall."*

**Correction #3 (QINT-A):** Caesar's failure to listen to warnings leads to his downfall. For example, when Caesar walks through a crowd of his supporters, a soothsayer warns him to "beware the ides of March" (1.2.103). Instead of questioning the soothsayer, Caesar says to Mark Antony, "He is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass" (1.2.24). Caesar's quick and total dismissal of the warning demonstrates his arrogance. Furthermore, he later ignores similar warnings from his supporters and his wife, Calpurnia. To dismiss one warning is understandable; however, the way Caesar repeatedly ignores the warnings illustrates a level of hubris that, in Shakespearian tragedy, is often punished by death.

*-the quotations are introduced with context, the quotations are made part of the writer's sentences, and the quotations are explained in relation to the argument.*

## F: Other Tips

### 1. There are four ways to make the quotation part of your sentence:

- a. The quoted material is worked into to the grammar of the sentence.

e.g. The soothsayer warns Caesar to "beware the ides of March" (1.2.103).

**NOTE: no punctuation before the quotation is needed, as there is no grammatical reason for any.**

- b. The quoted material is introduced with a phrase and signaling word like "says":

e.g. Caesar **says** to Mark Antony, "He is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass" (1.2.24). **OR** In response, Caesar says, "He is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass" (1.2.24).

**NOTE: a comma is used to introduce the quotation. Other signaling words are: suggests, argues, observes, notes, stats, etc. If "that" is used with a signal word, no comma is needed because it changes the grammar of the sentence:**

e.g. In response, Caesar says that "he is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass" (1.2.24).

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- c. Use a colon when a full sentence is used to introduce the quotation (the sentence must clearly indicate to the reader that a quotation is about to follow logically):

e.g. Brutus clearly tells the conspirators how they should kill Ceasar: Let's kill him boldly, but not wrathfully; / Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods" (2.1.92-93).

- d. Use a colon to introduce a block quotation:

e.g. Brutus' reason for killing Caesar is made especially clear when he addresses the angry Roman public:

If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. (3.2.18-22)

## 2. Changing or adding to a Quotation

- a. Use an ellipsis in square brackets [...] to indicate that you have omitted part of a quotation:

e.g. Brutus clearly tells the conspirators how they should kill Ceasar: "Let's kill him boldly [...] Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods" (2.1.92-93).

- b. You may change a word or two to make a quote work grammatically, but do not alter it so much that the meaning or context changes. Changed words are placed in square brackets [ ]:

e.g. Brutus explains that his reason for killing Caesar is "not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more" (3.2.18-22). (**quotation does not match grammatically—POV changes from "he" to "I"**)

**correction:** Brutus explains that his reason for killing Caesar is "not that [he] loved Caesar less, but that [he] loved Rome more" (3.2.18-22).

- c. Do not place ellipsis at the beginning or end of quotations.

e.g. **INCORRECT**--Brutus explains that his reason for killing Caesar is ". . . not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more . . ." (3.2.18-22).

## 3. Punctuating quotations within a sentence.

- a. MLA citation is placed directly after the quotation, even if it is not the end of the sentence:

eg. When Brutus announces that he loved Caesar but "loved Rome more" (3.2.22), he strikes a chord with the angry public.

- b. All punctuation goes outside the ( ), except for quotations that end with exclamation or question mark.

e.g. When stabbed by Brutus, Caesar responds, "Et, tu, Brute?" (3.1.112).

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- c. Carefully note the placement of the quotation marks, periods, commas and indents in the examples below:

e.g. Even though the soothsayer tells Caesar to “beware the ides of March” (1.2.103), Caesar chooses to ignore him.

Insert / to indicate line breaks in poetry or Shakespeare.

e.g. Brutus feels that they must kill Caesar with respect. For example, he says to Cassius and the other conspirators, “Let's kill him boldly, but not wrathfully; / Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods” (2.1.92-93).

e.g. Brutus' reason for killing Caesar is made especially clear when he addresses the angry Roman public:

Note: block quotations do not have quotation marks; instead they are indented. Also note that the final period goes before the citation ( )

If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. (3.2.18-22)

- d. As a general rule of thumb, never end a body paragraph with a quotation. Remember, quotations must be commented upon.