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**EMBEDDING YOUR QUOTES LIKE A PRO**

You should never have a quotation standing alone in your writing. Give your reader some context for your quote. Below are some common ways of incorporating evidence into a sentence. Try to incorporate at least 3 different ways in each of your paragraphs. As a general rule,

1. Introduce a quote with a speaking verb, followed by a comma. Example:

Crafty Odysseus claimed, “try some of this tasty Cyclops eye shish-kabob!” (25.120).

1. Introduce a quote with a declaration or bold statement followed by a colon. Example:

Odysseus surely was the master of craft: “He roasted the Cyclops eye like a shish-kabob” (250.120).

1. Introduce a quotation without punctuation if it is an integral part of a sentence. Example:

Odysseus wants his men to “try some of this tasty Cyclops eye shish-kabob!” (25.120).

1. Use ellipses for passages from which you are omitting needless words. For example, if the original passage stated, “Odysseus roasted the Cyclops eye like a shish-kabob over a backyard barbecue grill on Memorial Day” you may do the following: Fagles goes too far with his translation when he indicates that Odysseus used a “…barbeque grill on Memorial Day” (25.120).
2. Split a quote in the middle of a sentence. Example:

“Steel yourself” Odysseus yelled out in a sick pun, “for your fated doom!” (25.120).

1. Place a quote at the beginning of a sentence. Example:

“Steel yourself for your fated doom,” Odysseus yelled as he impaled another suitor (25.120).

1. Use an extended quote only if it is absolutely necessary. Introduce it with a declaration or bold statement and a colon. Note that commentary on the passage needs to continue, substantially, afterwards. Example:

Although never flustered in the face of great danger or overwhelming odds, Odysseus loses it when confronted with his ultimate adversary, Penelope:

…But Odysseus

blazed up in a fury, lashing out at his loyal wife:

‘Woman—your words, they cut me to the core!

Who could move my bed? Impossible task,

Even for some skilled craftsman…

(23.203)

Here, Odysseus himself acknowledges the fact that he, sacker of Troy, blinder of Cyclops and slaughterer of suitors, is still at war and has been hit, or “cut to the core”. The best he can do? He “lash[es] out” like some mortally wounded soldier about to be dispatched.

1. Alter the quote to fit with a sentence you are constructing. Note above, how in the commentary, a tense of a verb must be changed to fit (“Lashing out at his loyal wife” to “He lash[es] out”). Indicate a change by putting the alteration in square brackets, not parenthesis.
2. Indicate that something you have quoted has grammar, spelling or logic issues and that you are leaving it because that’s the way you found it. Do so by adding the latin word *sic* so that the reader doesn’t think you’re an ignoramus. Example:

The trivial pursuit card claimed, “The Moops [*sic*] conquered Spain in the 700s” (Seinfeld).

1. Emphasize something in the quote by italicizing it and indicate that you added the emphasis by writing in parenthesis, (emphasis added). Example:

One can clearly see Odysseus’s rage: “Woman--- your words, they *cut me to the core*!” (emphasis added).