



## Introducing Quotations

When you include a quotations, summary, or paraphrase, the reader needs to be guided smoothly from your words to the words of a source. This can be done using signal phrases, which name the author or speaker of the material and provide context for the source material. Use present tense verbs to introduce the source material. The first time you mention a source, briefly describe the author's title, credentials, or experience to lend credibility to your writing.

### Common Ways to Introduce Quotations

- Use an incomplete sentence with a comma.
  - Example: Wolff writes, "They left the woods and hunted along the creek" (154).
- Include a complete sentence followed by a colon.
  - Example: Jackson describes the atmosphere of suspense surrounding the ritual: "A sudden hush fell on the crowd as Mr. Summers cleared his throat and looked at the list" (120).
- Integrate a short part of a quote into your own sentence.
  - Example: Cohen's grandfather walks "exactly like Charlie Chaplin" and has "long fingers" (172).

### Examples:

- Roberta Rubenstein of American University believes that the use of the Gothic is especially noteworthy in Shirley Jackson's story "The Lottery." In her article "House Mothers and Haunted Daughters: Shirley Jackson and Female Gothic," Rubenstein **argues** that Jackson's use of the Gothic becomes "increasingly more masterful" (1).
- Cisneros **argues** that her father did not believe in the value of education for women; in his opinion, college was only good for finding a husband (98).
- Orwell **writes**, "And suddenly I realized I should have to shoot the elephant after all" (129).

### Commonly Used Signal Phrases

- acknowledges, adds, admits, agrees, argues, asserts, believes, claims, comments, compares, confirms, contends, declares, denies, describes, disputes, emphasizes, endorses, grants, illustrates, implies, insists, notes, observes, points out, reasons, refutes, rejects, reports, responds, suggests, thinks, writes