



# Incorporating Quotes

Pre-AP English II  
Sharp

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The following excerpt comes from the novella *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck:

- **Original Quote:**

- *"I ought to have shot that dog myself, George, I shouldn't ought to have let no stranger shoot my dog"*
- Snippet of quote: "I ought to have shot that dog myself" (Steinbeck 27).

# Method C (Someone Said)

## Formula:

Synonym of “said” + comma + quote

- This is the least effective of all the methods.
- In essence, you are announcing that you are preparing to embed a quote.
- NOTE:
  - If you choose to use this method, you **MUST** come up with a more precise word for “said.”
  - Be sure to make your words before the quote interesting and relevant to the quote.

## For example:

- Regretting the huge mistake he makes in allowing Carlson to shoot his dog, Candy **laments**, “I ought to have shot that dog myself” (Steinbeck 27).
- Candy, feeling insecure about his purpose, **admits**, “When they can me here I wisht somebody'd shoot me. But they won't do nothing like that” (Steinbeck 28).

# Method B (Colon)

## Formula:

- Complete sentence + Colon (:) + Quote as a complete sentence
- Introduce the quote with a complete sentence followed by a colon. Focus on the context of the quote, BUT do not say “This quote reveals” or variations of that.
- Remember the quote that follows the colon must be in the form of a complete sentence.

## For Example:

In the end, Candy understands that allowing Carlson to shoot his long time companion is a mistake: “I ought to have shot that dog myself, George, I shouldn’t ought to have let no stranger shoot my dog” (Steinbeck 27).

## Method A

### (A Natural Continuation of Thought)

- The proper use of this method is the sign of a mature writer!
- This method reads as a “regular” sentence.
  - Simply write a complete sentence, “substituting” part of it with **snippets** of quotes that you think are most effectively quoted, and most important, snippets that are directly connected to the point you are proving.

For Example:

Candy confesses to George and Lennie that he “**should have shot that dog**” himself, and further notes that he regrets allowing a stranger to do it (Steinbeck 27).

# Method A: Examples

- **Snippet in the middle:**
- Candy confesses to George and Lennie that he “should have shot that dog” himself, and further notes that he regrets allowing a stranger to do it (Steinbeck 27).
- **Snippet at the end:**
- Candy reveals to George his deep regret when he laments that “[he] should have shot that dog [himself]” (Steinbeck 27).
- **Snippets throughout:**
- Candy suffers not only from grief, but from remorse as he reveals the knowledge that he “should have shot that dog” himself and that he “shouldn’t ought to [have] let no stranger” shoot his long time companion (Steinbeck 27).

## Note:

- You should **NOT Embed a quote directly at the beginning of a sentence**
- ALWAYS begin each sentence with your own words.

# WHEN DO I USE A COMMA, AND WHEN DO I NOT?

- **If the quote is an integral part of the sentence and is formally introduced, use a comma.**
  - Example: According to Percy Shelley, “Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.”
- **If the quote is an integral part of the sentence but is not formally introduced, do NOT use a comma.**
  - Example: Shelley looked at poets as “the unacknowledged legislators of the world.”
- **If the quote is not an integral part of the sentence and is not formally introduced, use a colon to introduce it.**
  - Example: Shelley held a bold view: “Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.”



# USING BRACKETS

- **BRACKETS [ ]** allow you to do two things:
  - **1.** Change the author's original wording when needed (as in the second example above).
  - **2.** Add words for fluency or clarity (as in the third example above).

## **Example 1: Changing the author's original wording for better fluency.**

- Candy realizes that he “should have shot that dog [himself]” (Steinbeck 27).

# USING THE ELLIPSIS

- **ELLIPSIS (three dots ...)** allows you to delete a word or words from the original longer quote.
- **NOTE:** You do not need them at the beginning or end of a quote, even if you eliminate words. This is considered a snippet.

# Short Answer Format

1. Thesis Statement: A thesis statement declares your OWN unique perspective, your “take”, on the subject.
2. In other words the thesis is your one sentence answer to the prompt/question.

# Support/Concrete Detail

Quotes from the text that support your THESIS.

**Remember, your support (quote) must be directly connected to the thesis statement.**

# Explain/Elaborate

This is where you will explain and elaborate on why/how the support you provided proves/supports your THESIS.

Please do not say:

“I am right because...”

“This proves my point...”

“My thesis is right because”