

# Signal Phrases & Titles

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# Signal Phrases to Integrate Quotations

- ◆ Effective use of source material requires that you include quotations in your paper in a way that allows the reader to understand the relevance of the quoted material to your own argument.
- ◆ You should NEVER drop a quotation into your paper unannounced and apparently unrelated to the ideas around it.
- ◆ The quotations MUST ALWAYS be embedded into one of your own sentences.

- ❖ A signal phrase incorporates the quotation smoothly into your writing and provides context for the material. Often the signal phrase will name the author of the quoted material, serving to include the quotation smoothly and to attribute the idea to its source.
- ❖ To avoid monotony, vary the signal phrases you use to integrate quotations.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

- ❖ **In the words** of author and essayist Samuel Johnson, “The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good” (45).
- ❖ As Divakaruni **has noted**, “Looking down from the heights of Maslow’s pyramid, it seems inconceivable to us that someone could actually prefer bread to freedom” (352).
- ❖ Arthur Hardy, a renowned expert on New Orleans Carnival traditions, **points out** that “Mardi Gras came to North America from Paris, where it had been celebrated since the Middle Ages” (14).
- ❖ Sheffield answers her critics by **conceding**, “The proposal did not account sufficiently for the economic downturn” (12).

# Signal Verbs

acknowledges	comments	describes	maintains	reports
adds	compares	disputes	notes	responds
admits	concedes	emphasizes	observes	shows
agrees	confirms	endorses	points out	states
argues	contends	illustrates	reasons	suggests
asserts	declares	implies	refutes	summarizes
claims	denies	insists	rejects	writes

# Grammar & Punctuation

- ◆ A quotation must be made to fit the syntax and grammar of your sentence, so take care as you experiment with signal phrases to introduce quotations. Make sure the result is a grammatically correct sentence.
- ◆ Quotations may be introduced by two—and only two—marks marks of punctuation, the **comma** and the **colon**. Never introduce a quotation with a semicolon.

# Your turn . . .

- ◆ Create appropriate signal phrases for the following quotations.
- ◆ **From “Thank You, Ma’am” by Langston Hughes**
  - ◆ “When she got to her door, she dragged the boy inside, down a hall, and into a large kitchenette-furnished room”
  - ◆ “When they were finished eating she got up and said, ‘Now, here, take this ten dollars and buy yourself some blue suede shoes’.”

# continued

- ◆ From “The Ways of Meeting Oppression” by Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - ◆ “He soon discovered that slaves do not always welcome their deliverers. They become accustomed to being slaves” (468).
  - ◆ “Violence often brings about momentary results” (468).
  - ◆ “the principle of nonviolent resistance seeks to reconcile the truths of two opposites—acquiescence and violence—while avoiding the extremes and immoralities of both” (469).
  - ◆ “In the end, it is not a struggle between people at all, but a tension between justice and injustice” (470).

# Titles in Essays & Research Papers

MLA



# Capitalization & Punctuation

- ◆ Whenever you cite the title of a published work in your research paper,
  - ◆ Take the title from the title page, example, not from the cover or from a running head at the top of a page.
  - ◆ Do not reproduce any unusual typographic characteristics, such as special capitalization or lowercasing of all letters.
  - ◆ A title page may present a title designed like one of the following examples:

**MODERNISM & NEGRITUDE**

**READING SITES**  
**Social Difference and Reader Response**

**Turner's early sketchbooks**

These titles should appear as follows:

*Modernism and Negritude*

*Reading Sites: Social Difference and Reader Response*

*Turner's early Sketchbooks*

# Capitalization Rules

- **In a title or a subtitle, capitalize the first word, the last word, and all principal words, including those that follow hyphens in compound terms.**
- **Capitalize** the following parts of speech:
  - Nouns** (e.g., *flowers*, as in *The Flowers of Europe*)
  - Pronouns** (e.g., *our*, as in *Save Our Children*; *that*, as in *The Mouse That Roared*)
  - Verbs** (e.g., *watches*, as in *America Watches Television*; *is*, as in *What Is Literature?*)
  - Adjectives** (e.g., *ugly*, as in *The Ugly Duckling*; *that*, as in *Who Said That Phrase?*)
  - Adverbs** (e.g., *slightly*, as in *Only Slightly Corrupt*; *down*, as in *Go Down, Moses*)
  - Subordinating conjunctions** (e.g., *after*, *although*, *as if*, *as soon as*, *because*, *before*, *if*, *that*, *unless*, *until*, *when*, *where*, *while*, as in *One If by Land and Anywhere That Chance Leads*)

# Capitalization Cont'd

- ◆ **DO NOT capitalize** the following parts of speech when they fall in the middle of a title:
  - ◆ Articles (*a, an, the*, as in *Under the Bamboo Tree*)
  - ◆ Prepositions (e.g., *against, as, between, in, of, to*, as in *The Merchant of Venice* and “A Dialogue between the Soul and Body”)
  - ◆ Coordinating conjunctions (*and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet*, as in *Romeo and Juliet*)
  - ◆ The *to* in infinitives (as in *How to Play Chess*)
- ◆ Use a colon and a space to separate a title from a subtitle, unless the title ends in a question mark or an exclamation point. Include other punctuation only if it is part of the title or subtitle.

# Italicized Titles

- ◆ *Italicize* the names of books, plays, poems published as books, pamphlets, periodicals (newspapers, magazines, and journals), Web sites, online databases, films, television and radio broadcasts, compact discs, audiocassettes, record albums, dance performances, operas and other long musical compositions, works of visual art, ships, aircraft, and spacecraft.

## **EXAMPLES**

*The Awakening* (book)

*The Importance of Being Earnest* (play)

*The Waste Land* (poem published as a book)

*New Jersey Driver Manual* (pamphlet)

*Wall Street Journal* (newspaper)

*Time* (magazine)

*PMLA* (journal)

*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Web site)

*LexisNexis Academic* (online database)

*It's a Wonderful Life* (film)

*Star Trek* (television broadcast)

*What's the Word?* (radio broadcast)

*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (compact disc, audiocassette, record album)

# Titles in Quotation Marks

- ◆ **Use quotation marks** for the titles of articles, essays, stories and poems published within larger works, chapters of books, pages in Web sites, individual episodes of television and radio broadcasts, and short musical compositions (e.g., songs). Also use quotation marks for unpublished works, such as lectures and speeches.
  - ◆ “Literary History and Sociology” (journal article)
  - ◆ “Sources of Energy in the Next Decade” (magazine article)
  - ◆ “Etruscan” (encyclopedia article)
  - ◆ “The Fiction of Langston Hughes” (essay in a book)
  - ◆ “The Lottery” (story)
  - ◆ “Kubla Khan” (poem)
  - ◆ “The American Economy before the Civil War” (chapter in a book)
  - ◆ “Philosophy of Economics” (page in a Web site)
  - ◆ “The Trouble with Tribbles” (episode of the television broadcast *Star Trek*)
  - ◆ “Mood Indigo” (song)