

Integrating and Punctuating Direct Quotes in Academic Writing.

This is a drop-in:

In one way, Lennie is a burden for George. “God, you’re a lot of trouble. I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn’t have you on my tail. I could live so easy and maybe have a girl” (7). This shows that George acknowledges his life has been dramatically altered because of Lennie; he will never have his own wife and kids.

Drop-ins are bad because they impede the flow of your writing and because using them makes it look like you wrote the essay without the quotes and then added them in later.

There are three ways to introduce a quote so that it is not “dropped in” to the text and so that it is integrated smoothly into your own writing.

1. Introduce with a speaking tag and a comma.

Lennie is, indeed, a burden for George, and when he remarks, “I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn’t have you on my tail. . . and maybe have a girl,” he acknowledges that his life has been dramatically altered because of Lennie (7).

2. Introduce with no punctuation; create a seamless flow between your words and the quote.

Lennie is, indeed, a burden for George and his remark that without Lennie he could “live so easy and maybe have a girl” shows that he, himself, acknowledges that his life has been dramatically altered (7).

3. Introduce with a colon (use this method rarely; save for long quotes)

Lennie is, indeed, a burden for George and he, himself, acknowledges this several times early in the book: “God, you’re a lot of trouble. I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn’t have you on my tail. I could live so easy and maybe have a girl” (7).

Remember

- Never introduce a quote with a semi-colon
- Periods and commas go inside end quotes
- Semi colons go outside end quotes