



# Embedding quotations

A Step Toward Sophisticated Writing



# What are embedded quotations?

- Embedding (or *integrating*) quotes is simply using only the part of the quotation that you need and embedding, or placing, that quote within the context of your own writing.



# Why embed quotations?

- Embedding quotations can eliminate awkwardness and help you maintain the flow of your writing.
- Embedding quotations contributes to a clearer, more sophisticated piece.
- Embedding quotations allows you to use only the pieces of the text that fully support your ideas.

"Why won't you talk about it?" Norma asked later. Arthur's eyes shifted as he brushed his teeth. He looked at her reflection in the bathroom mirror.

"Doesn't it intrigue you?"

"It offends me," Arthur said.

"I know, but--" Norma rolled another curler in her hair. "Doesn't it intrigue you, too?"

"You think it's a practical joke?" she asked as they went into the bedroom.

"If it is, it's a sick one."

Norma sat on the bed and took off her slippers. "Maybe it's some kind of psychological research."

Arthur shrugged. "Could be."

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As the couple prepares for bed, Norma can't stop obsessing about the box. She refuses to listen to Arthur, who does not want to talk about it any longer. "Why won't you talk about it?" Arthur explains, "It offends me" (2). Then she comes up with ideas of what the box really is, ignoring the information Mr. Steward gave her about the button's function. "Maybe it's some kind of psychological research," she says (2). This quote shows Norma's curiosity. During their conversation, Arthur doesn't even want to look at his wife as she flirts with the unethical idea of pushing the button. "Arthur's eyes shifted as he brushed his teeth. He looked at her reflection in the bathroom mirror" (2). This shows how disgusted he is by her excitement about the mysterious box.

# In *most* cases, avoid full-sentence quotations!

## Full-sentence quotations can be unsophisticated:

By using full, free-standing quotations, the author often includes information that does not add to or support their ideas in meaningful ways. This can make the work unnecessarily wordy, disjointed, and repetitive.

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“This quote shows” is a weak connector:

By using full, free-standing quotations, the author may *explicitly* have to explain the importance or connection between her ideas and her quotation choices by using unsophisticated phrases like “this quote shows.”

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Norma refuses to accept her husband's dismissal of the box as offensive and "sick," which creates a rift between them as they prepare for bed (2). As Norma rationalizes reasons to push the button, Arthur can no longer look directly at her, watching "her reflection in the bathroom mirror" rather than face her immorality head-on (2).

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While the box "offends" Arthur, Norma's fevered curiosity drives her to continue exploring its possibilities (2). She ignores his ethical stance by forcing a conversation he clearly does not want to have, asking if he thinks the box could be "a practical joke" or "some kind of psychological research" (2). She refuses to acknowledge what Arthur denounces as "sick": the idea of committing an anonymous murder for money (2).

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