Incorporating Quotes

Quotations from your sources can be used as specific evidence that supports the claims that you are making. However, they must woven delicately into your own writing in order to be successful. Sometimes, this is done by explaining the significance of the quote or summarizing the quote directly before or after it. Rarely are quotes effective if they are placed within a paragraph without being incorporated into your own sentence. With this in mind, review some of the possible manners in which you can incorporate quotes into your sentences.

At the beginning of a sentence

"The most violent element in society is ignorance," the senator quoted Emma Goodman, the famous American Anarchist, at the beginning of her commencement speech at Randolph-Macon.

In the middle of a sentence

Woolf begins and ends by speaking of the need of the woman writer to have "money and a room of her own," which critics of Woolf's work have dismissed as elitist (2).

At the end of the sentence

In *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir describes such an experience as one in which the girl "becomes an object, and she sees herself as object" (21). From this awareness, she develops a deeper understanding of her position in the social infrastructure.

Divided by your own words

"Science usually prefers the literal to the nonliteral term," Kinneavy writes, "—that is, figures of speech are often out of place in science" (192).

Applying these techniques
Use your sources as models for how you should incorporate quotations into your own writing. Keep your audience in mind while you review your sources. If you are writing for MAD magazine, the techniques you use to incorporate quotes may differ from those of an essay aimed at a US legislative body. Mark the ways in which quotes are incorporated in your sources then begin to re-organize the ways that you incorporate quotes based on which method most aptly serves your purpose for quoting.