



- ❖ **Strive to avoid “dropped” quotes.**
- ❖ “Dropped” quotes are not good because they
 - do not clarify who is speaking
 - are choppy and abrupt (they don’t flow nicely)

- A “dropped” quote stands on its own and is not “woven” into your own existing sentence.
- A “dropped” quote looks like this:
There are two kinds of mindset, a fixed mindset and a growth mindset, and a person’s type of mindset is very important. “Mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3).
- By “weaving” the quote into your own sentence, you can fix the problem.

There are four common ways to weave in a quote:

1. Start with “According to” + author + comma
2. Start with author + verb + comma
3. Start with author + verb + that (and no comma)
4. Just quote key words & paraphrase the rest. (Name author in parentheses if not in the sentence.)

These three are called “**signal phrases**”

Examples:

1. According to Carol Dweck, “mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3).
2. Carol Dweck claims, “mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3).
3. Carol Dweck claims that “mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3).
4. Our mindsets are important because they shape our habits of “coping with difficulty” (Dweck 3).

Final revision, example:

The type of mindset people have can profoundly affect their lives. For example, Stanford psychologist Carol Dweck claims that different kinds of “mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3).

NOTE: Put the page number in parentheses—that’s called your “in-text” parenthetical citation.

Pitfalls to avoid:

When trying to weave a quote into your own sentence, avoid creating run-ons and comma splices.

Example of a run-on:

Dweck claims mindsets are important “mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3).

Example of a comma splice:

Dweck claims mindsets are important, “mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3).

Example of a correct sentence (without a run-on or comma splice):

Dweck calls our attention to the importance of our mindsets when she claims, “mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3).

Step-by-Step Tips for Setting up and Following up Quotations

1. Set up the quote.

- Establish the key idea of the quote. Provide context for the quote (set the scene—for example, when, where, who, what). The words “when” or “during” especially help with context.

2. Weave the quote into your own sentence and cite it.

- Words such as “says,” “says that,” or “by saying” are useful when weaving in quotes. Do not “drop” quotes. A citation = page numbers in parentheses (3).

3. Paraphrase the quote (if added clarity is helpful or necessary)

- “In other words,” “This means that,” and “Put differently” are the kinds of phrases that help to trigger paraphrase.

4. Comment on the quote’s relevance—how it relates to a point.

- The following phrases help trigger commentary: “This shows, suggests, emphasizes, implies, reveals, indicates, points out, highlights, gives the impression, etc. that...”

Example:

When Carol Dweck discusses various ways people deal with setbacks, she emphasizes an important difference between a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. Dweck says that different “mindsets lead to different ways of coping with difficulty” (3). In other words, when confronted by a tough challenge, some people may see it as an opportunity to grow, but other people may view it as something they want to avoid. This idea is powerful because it can encourage us to think of ways we might fall into either of those categories when we’re confronted by a challenge. Do we tend to stay in our comfort zones, or do we stretch ourselves? Dweck wants us to reflect on that thought, and she wants us to see that our actions and abilities are largely the product of our mindsets.

Questions:

1. Where is the quote being set up with context?
2. Where is the quote being woven in with a signal phrase? Where is the in-text parenthetical citation?
3. Where is the paraphrase of the quote?
4. Where is the commentary on the quote?