



- ❖ **Colons can be used to weave in quotes**
- ❖ Colons, like signal phrases, can work well to set up a quote, but remember this: a complete statement needs to go before the colon.

Good Examples

- Arnold comments on the importance of education with this remark: “You can’t read, you can’t play ball” (145).
 - Arnold calls attention to Eugene’s lack of education with these words: “You can’t read, you can’t play ball” (145).
 - Arnold highlights the importance of education when he says this: “You can’t read, you can’t play ball” (145).
 - Arnold points out how a lack of education can be limiting when he says the following: “You can’t read, you can’t play ball” (145).
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Remember that incorrect colons typically look like these ones:

- ~~I like foods such as: pizza, ice cream, and hot dogs.~~
- ~~My favorite colors are: red, blue, and green.~~

All those incorrect colons set up lists (that’s good), but they are wrong because the colons don’t have complete statements before them.

Correct = I like foods such as these: pizza, ice cream, and cookies. These are my favorite foods: pizza and ice cream.

To weave in quotes effectively, watch out for these kinds of pitfalls:

1. A dropped quote with no citation
 - Example = Lack of education can be a problem. “You can’t read, you can’t play ball.”
2. A quotation that has been incorrectly altered
 - Example = Arnold says that if college basketball players “can’t read, they can’t play ball” (145).
 - Tip = use square brackets to alter or add words, and use an ellipsis to signal that words have been left out
 - Brackets look like this: [brackets surround this]. And an ellipsis looks like this: ...
3. Incorrect use of literary present tense
 - Example = Arnold said that if “You can’t read, you can’t play ball” (145).
4. Incorrect use of the word quotes
 - Example = Alexie quotes, “You can’t read, you can’t play ball” (145).
5. Vague pronouns when handling a quote
 - Example = Alexie writes that “he gave me three stitches in my forehead” (146).
6. Casual use of the word with or the word is to set up a quote (it doesn’t flow well)
 - Example = Alexie comments on a lack of education with “You can’t read, you can’t play ball” (145).
 - Example = A quote showing concern about education is “You can’t read, you can’t play ball” (145).
7. Inaccurate handling of quotes within quotes. Tip = use single marks inside double marks. See example on back.

Alexie suggests that Native Americans often lack good access to quality health care. For example, when Arnold needs stitches at the basketball game because someone from his own tribe hurled a quarter at him and put a bloody gouge in his forehead, the medical attention he receives is not the best. At first, Eugene's response to Arnold is as follows: "Ah, it's nothing," he said. "Maybe three stitches. I'll drive you . . . to Spokane to get it fixed up" (145). However, Arnold convinces Eugene to stitch him up right there and then so that Arnold can get back in the game. Indeed, Alexie writes that Eugene "gave [Arnold] three stitches in [his] forehead" (146). Even though it's likely Eugene, who "had just become an EMT for the tribal clinic" (145), did a fine job with the stitches, Alexie also informs his readers that Eugene is an alcoholic who recently wrecked his motorcycle and who, people say, can't read. Therefore, this example implies that Arnold receives medical treatment from a reckless and illiterate alcoholic—not the best combination in a good health-care provider. In fact, Arnold hints that Eugene doesn't do the best job as a surgeon: "[Eugene] did it. He gave me three stitches in my forehead and it hurt like crazy, but I was ready to play for the second half" (146). No doubt, stitches aren't fun, but the idea that they "hurt like crazy" leaves readers to wonder if Eugene did a good job. After all, even Eugene doubts his abilities. For example, it's hard to imagine Arnold felt as if he were in good hands when hearing these words from Eugene: "I can't do that, man. It's your face. I might leave a scar or something" (146). What's more, after Arnold goes back in the game and is knocked unconscious by Rowdy, Arnold ends up being taken in Eugene's ambulance to a hospital in Spokane, which is about 50 miles from the Wellpinit tribal clinic and about a 75-minute drive. Most people wouldn't be comforted by the thought that, when an emergency strikes, they are more than an hour drive from the medical care they need, and Alexie helps bring that discomfoting reality to light with this and other examples, revealing that the remote locations of many Indian reservations puts many Native Americans at a great distance from good medical care.

← This quote is set up with a **colon**, and it illustrates a **quote within a quote**. It also uses an **ellipsis** since it removed a word.

← This quote shows how to make minor alterations to a quote with **brackets**, and it avoids **vague pronouns**.

← This sentence uses **literary present tense** even while it talks about past events. Arnold tells a story and hints at things (those are present tense verbs), but Eugene did something in the past tense in the quote.