Introducing Quotes

Why do we use quotes?

- Quotations are used for many different purposes: to argue with another author’s definition of a specific term, to validate a claim or provide statistical evidence, and to provide the reader with a claim that we wish to refute later on in the paper.

When are quotes used?

- Direct quotes are used when the words of a particular source are relevant, powerful and/or an example representing what the author is thinking.
- It is important for quotations to be an essential part of a text.

❖ CHECKING TO SEE IF QUOTES ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE TEXT

- The Salting Syndrome: If the reader is able to understand the essay when quotes that are “sprinkled” throughout the paper are removed, then the quotes are not an essential part of the paper.
- The Overpowering Opinion: It is important to make sure not to lose the writer’s voice by using quotations in the beginning of each paragraph. It is important to make sure that quotations do not overpower your essay.
- The Dreary Design: Readers will become bored with the essay if each quotation is introduced using the same sentence structure and verb to indicate the author’s opinion.

How to use quotes:

- It is crucial to remember to integrate quotes smoothly into your paper.
- You should always embed a quotation into your sentence.
- Using a signal phrase will ensure that the quotation will be incorporated smoothly into your writing.
  - Very often a signal phrase will name the author of the quoted material. Example: According to Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen, “Depending on which way the wind blows, it could threaten Mississippi, Alabama and Florida as well.”
- To avoid being monotonous, it is useful to introduce quotes using different signal phrases.
  - In the words of author and essayist Samuel Johnson, “The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.”
  - As Divakaruni has noted, “Looking down from the heights of Maslow’s pyramid, it seems inconceivable to us that someone could actually prefer bread to freedom.”
  - Arthur Hardy, a renowned expert on New Orleans Carnival traditions, points out that “Mardi Gras came to North America from Paris, where it had been celebrated since the Middle Ages.”