Integrating Quotations: Eliminating Floating Quotes

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will understand four ways to eliminate “floating” quotes. This activity aligns with English 50 SLO 2: Composition.

Warning: Don’t Drop That Quote!: A “dropped” or “floating” quotation is plopped down in your essay with no integration with your own words. It’s as if you’ve copied and pasted the quotation in. To avoid this, use smooth “TIES” between quotations and your own writing.

TIES: Tag, Introduce, Embed, Split

- **Tag**: Add the signal phrase after the quotation.
  - Ex. “But the 1950s were not, in the end, as calm and contented as the politics and popular culture of the time suggested,” cautions Alan Brinkley, author or American History: A Survey (817).

- **Introduce**: Add the signal phrase before the quotation.
  - Ex. According to Brinkley, “But the 1950s were not, in the end, as calm and contented as the politics and popular culture of the time suggested” (817).

- **Embed**: Embed only a portion of the quotation in your own sentence.
  - Ex. Although the 1950s appeared “calm and contented,” this was more of an image produced by “politics and popular culture” than the reality (Brinkley 817).

- **Split**: Add the signal phrase in between natural divisions in the quotation.
  - Ex. “But the 1950s were not, in the end,” Alan Brinkley argues, “as calm and contented as the politics and popular culture of the time suggested” (817).

YOUR TURN!

On the back of this paper write 8 sentences using each method of integration (TIES) twice and at least two different quotations. You may want to use quotations from your own course reading, or you may use those provided below. (Don’t worry about page numbers.)

- **Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.**—**Immanuel Kant**
- **It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err.**—**Mahatma Gandhi**
- **Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure.**—**William Saroyan**
- **No man is wise enough by himself.**—**Titus Maccius Plautus**
YOUR TURN!

1. Tag:

2. Tag:

3. Introduce:

4. Introduce:

5. Embed:

6. Embed:

7. Split:

8. Split:

Final Step: Meet with an instructor on duty or a tutor and review your answers to the above.

Ask any additional questions you might have about eliminating floating quotes.

Attach a confirmation sheet or get a signature below:

Instructor Signature: __________________________ Date _______________

Return this completed, signed sheet to your instructor.