Using QUOTATIONS in an ESSAY

Why use quotations in your essay?

1. To support your argument.
2. To illustrate your point of view.
3. To demonstrate how you arrived at an original idea of your own.

How can I put a quotation into a sentence?

- **Use Signal Phrases**

A signal phrase can be set up in **three ways**:

1. **Writing a complete sentence followed by a colon and then the quotation.**

Example: The character of Macbeth may be going mad due to his hallucinations: **"**Is this a dagger which I see before me **/** The handle toward my hand?**"**

2. **Writing an incomplete sentence (optional comma) and then embedding the quotation.**

Example: Macbeth's sanity is in doubt when he hallucinates, **"**Is this a dagger which I see before me **/** The handle toward my hand?**"**

3. **Writing a statement that ends in a signal phrase and then the quotation.**

Example: Macbeth's sanity is increasingly under scrutiny. He questions **"**Is this a dagger which I see before me **/** The handle toward my hand?**"**

Which example do you think works best? Why? Do you know any other methods?

NOTE: / shows I am quoting poetry and this is where a new line would have started. The full stop at the end of your sentence is placed outside the quotation marks.

You can create your own signal phrase by mixing these basic styles with verbs. There are many verbs you can use to help you build your own **signal phrase**:

reasons	illustrates	adds	claims
says	implies	admits	comments
states	insists	agrees	compares
suggests	notes	argues	demonstrates
thinks	observes	asserts	denies
writes	points out	believes	emphasises