How To: Embed and Cite Evidence

When you are including evidence in your paragraph, you cannot just plop it into the middle of your essay and expect it to stand alone. You must integrate or embed the evidence and cite it so that the reader knows where it came from. The following examples will use this passage from the *MLA Documentation Guide* to demonstrate different methods of embedding quotes:

“To move a quotation from a text to your paper, making it fit smoothly into the flow of your text, use one of the following methods” (Smith 23).

**1. SET-OFF: Name the speaker and set off the full quotation with a comma. Capitalize the first letter of the quote:**

The MLA guide says, “To move a quotation from a text to your paper… use one of the following methods” (Smith 23).

**2. INTEGRATED: If the quote fits into the flow of your sentence without a break or pause, a comma and capital letter are not necessary:**

When writing an essay, there are many methods to make a quote “fit smoothly into the flow of your text” (Smith 23).

**3.** **To embed a spoken quote (dialogue), the first word should not be capitalized, as it just flows with the sentence. If it is not capitalized in the text, use brackets […] to indicate that you have changed it. Pretend the sample quotation is being spoken by a teacher:**

In class, the teacher says that in order “[t]o move a quotation from a text to your paper, making it fit smoothly into the flow of your text, use one of the following methods” (Smith 23).

**Citing evidence in your paragraph:**

**1. The evidence ALWAYS needs to be cited following MLA specifications.**

**2. It should be followed by a parentheses with the author’s last name and the page number.**

**3. The period for the sentence should come outside of the parentheses.**

Example:

“To move a quotation from your text move a quotation from a text to your paper, making it fit smoothly into the flow of your text, use one of the following methods” (Smith 23).

Period outside  
parentheses

Page number

Author’s last name