

**ENGLISH II PRE-AP GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND MECHANICS**  
**Packet 1: Embedding Quotations into Your Writing**

Embedding snippets of quotes is the best way to incorporate and embed quotations within your own sentences. These snippets are shorter than the original quote, allowing you to use your own words to paraphrase or summarize. In addition, the use of snippets when embedding improves sentence fluency. What is a snippet? It is a portion of the original quote.

The following excerpts come from the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck:

**Original Quote:** *"I ought to have shot that dog myself, George, I shouldn't ought to have let no stranger shoot my dog"*  
**Snippet of quote:** "I ought to have shot that dog myself" (Steinbeck 27).

**Embedding a quote directly at the beginning of a sentence should NOT occur.**  
 Each sentence should start with your own words.

**Embedding a quote in the middle of a sentence:**

Candy confesses to George and Lennie that he "should have shot that dog" himself, and further notes that he regrets allowing a stranger to do it (Steinbeck 27).

**Embedding a quote at the end of a sentence (also referred to using a lead-in phrase):**

Candy reveals to George his deep regret when he laments that, "[he] should have shot that dog [himself]" (Steinbeck 27).

**Embedding several snippets of the quote throughout your sentence:**

Candy suffers not only from grief, but from remorse as he reveals the knowledge that he "should have shot that dog" himself and that he "shouldn't ought to [have] let no stranger" shoot his long time companion (Steinbeck 27).

**USING BRACKETS AND THE ELLIPSIS**

**BRACKETS [ ]** allow you to do two things: **1.** Change the author's original wording when needed (as in the second example above). **2.** Add words for fluency or clarity (as in the third example above).

**ELLIPSIS (three dots ...)** allows you to delete a word or words from the original longer quote. **NOTE:** You do not need them at the beginning or end of a quote, even if you eliminate words. This is considered a snippet.

**Example 1: Changing the author's original wording for better fluency.**

Candy realizes that he "should have shot that dog [himself]" (Steinbeck 27).  
 What is the change from the original quote? \_\_\_\_\_

**Example 2: Adding words to the author's original wording**

Candy states to George, "I should have shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't ought to of let no stranger [Carlson] shoot my dog" (Steinbeck 27).  
 What has been changed? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN DO I USE A COMMA, AND WHEN DO I NOT?**

If the quote is an integral part of the sentence and is formally introduced, use a comma.

Example: According to Percy Shelley, "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

If the quote is an integral part of the sentence but is not formally introduced, do NOT use a comma.

Example: Shelley looked at poets as "the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

If the quote is not an integral part of the sentence and is not formally introduced, use a colon to introduce it.

Example: Shelley held a bold view: "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."