Three ways to write a quote into your text:

Using a <u>colon</u> – a dot over a dot — :

How to use it

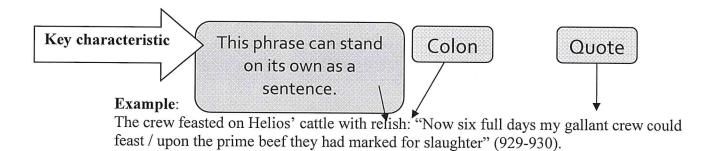
Set up the quote and then present it as proof of what you have just said.

Analogy: In court, a lawyer might make a statement, but to prove it, he points to the evidence, which supports and proves the statement he made.

Key Question

Can the phrase before the quote stand on its own as a sentence?

If yes, then put a colon before the quote.



2. Using <u>no punctuation</u>

How to use it

You can mold the author's words in as if they are your own.

In this case, you'll probably be summarizing or paraphrasing the story and at some point decide that the writer's words are better than yours – so you use them instead!

Key Question

If you took away the quotation marks, would you put any punctuation in that spot?

- If **no**, then you still don't need any.
- Just let the quotation marks sit there to mark which words are not yours.

Example: After Odysseus' men were killed, he was left alone on the sea and began floating "north again, / straight for Charybdis" (965-966).

3. Using a <u>comma</u>

How to use it

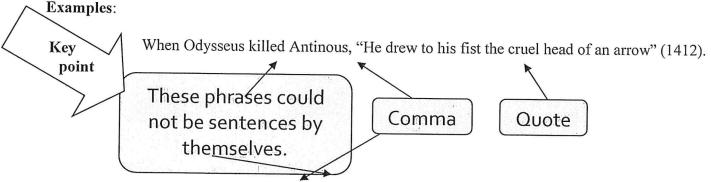
- You can introduce the quote with an introductory phrase that leads into the author's phrasing.
- Or, you can begin a sentence with a quote and attach a phrase at the end.

Analogy: This might feel like you are writing a piece of dialog for a story.

Key Question

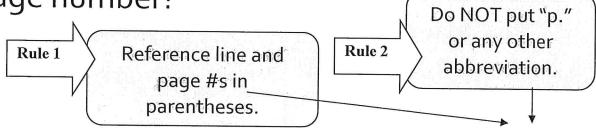
Can the phrase before (or after) the quote stand on its own as a sentence?

If **no**, then lead into it or out of it with a comma.



"Let me bring you a shield and spear," offers Telemachos to his battling father (1506).

But – how do I punctuate the end and the line or page number?



He was left alone on the sea and began floating "north again, / straight for Charybdis" (965-66).

