Incorporating Quotes Fluently

**General Rule:** Interpret your source’s information as you go. Every time you introduce information from a source, explain what the quote means in relation to your essay’s point. You can include multiple quotes in a paragraph, but each individual quote needs its own explanation.

**Example:**
When Hamlet is alone on stage, and only speaking to himself, readers have a chance to hear his private thoughts. Hamlet begins by saying, “To be, or not to be- that is the question” (Shakespeare 1.3.1749). The fact that Hamlet considers it a choice to either live and “be,” or to die implies he is considering suicide. Since suicide is something usually associated with sadness, this moment contributes to the categorization of the play as a tragedy.

**Step 1: Provide context.**
- For literature, you might consider:
  - Who is saying the quote?
  - At what point in the story does the quote appear?
- For research, you might consider:
  - Where did the details come from? (e.g. research, an experiment, historical documents)
  - What are the source’s credentials?

**Step 2: Add a signal phrase.**
- Writers should never form a sentence that only includes a quote.
- For more information on how to construct a signal phrase, refer to [Signal Phrases (MLA Examples)](Link) or [Signal Phrases (APA Examples)].

**Step 3: Include the paraphrase or quote.**

**Step 4: Format the citation correctly.**
- For more information on how to format a parenthetical citation, refer to [Quoting Sources in APA](Link) or [In-Text & Parenthetical Citation Basics - MLA examples (Handout)](Link).

**Step 5: Use your own ideas to interpret the quote.**
- Consider questions like:
  - What does the quote mean?
  - What does the quote prove?
  - How does the interpretation relate to your point?