**Essay Writing: Embedding References**

CAWS Dept: IE Weldon Secondary School

Once done collecting research and deciding which quotes/references you want to use as evidence comes the task of embedding those in your essay. This can be difficult, as you are taking a sentence or a portion of a sentence from another source and blending it in to your own writing.

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| **Rule #1 – Big No-No**  **DO NOT** just drop a quote/reference as a stand-alone sentence. That merely putting someone else’s words and leaving it out in dead space. You have to anchor it with your own writing to give it further context.  **Examples:**  “No. I am your father.”  “Obi-Wan was wise to hide her from me. Now his failure is complete. If you will not turn to the Dark Side, then perhaps she will.”  *What the heck do those mean?* |

**Here are a few stylistic options when embedding quotes/references into your own writing.**

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| **Option 1:** Introduce the quotation with a complete sentence and a colon.  **Examples:**  In *The Empire Strikes Back*, Darth Vader states in no uncertain terms that he is Luke Skywalker’s father: “No. I am your father.”  When Vader recognizes the difficulty in convincing Luke of the power of the Dark Side, he indicates his intention to appeal to Luke’s sister, who is presumably more likely to be turned: “Obi-Wan was wise to hide her from me. Now his failure is complete. If you will not turn to the Dark Side, then perhaps she will.” |

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| **Option 2:** Use an introductory or explanatory phrase, but not a complete sentence, separated from the quotation with a comma.  **Examples:**  In *The Empire Strikes Back*, Darth Vader states in no uncertain terms that he is Luke Skywalker’s father when he says, “No. I am your father.”  When Vader recognizes the difficulty in convincing Luke of the power of the Dark Side, he indicates his belief that Luke’s sister Leia is more likely to be turned when he says, “Obi-Wan was wise to hide her from me. Now his failure is complete. If you will not turn to the Dark Side, then perhaps she will.” |

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| **Option 3:** Make the quotation a part of your own sentence without any punctuation between your own words and the words you are quoting.  **Examples:**  In *The Empire Strikes Back*, Darth Vader states in no uncertain terms that he is Luke Skywalker’s father when he says that “I am your father.”  When Vader recognizes the difficulty in convincing Luke of the power of the Dark Side, he indicates his belief that Luke’s sister Leia is more likely to be turned when he says that “If you will not turn to the Dark Side, then perhaps she will.” |

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| **Option 4:** Embed shorter portions of the original quotation as part of your own sentence.  **Example:**  During their epic battle in *The Empire Strikes Back*, Darth Vader tells Luke he “has only begun to discover your power” by revealing “I am your father.”  Darth Vader angers Luke when he states that Obi-Wan’s “failure is complete” and that if Luke will not turn to the Dark Side “then perhaps she will.” |

**A Few Last Rules/Reminders**

* DO NOT italicize quotes/references in your History essays.
* DO NOT put page numbers in brackets behind the quote in your History essays – That is what your footnotes are for.
* Once you embed your quote/reference you always follow it with analysis; your discussion of that evidence to support your original thesis.
* Punctuation (periods/commas) go inside the quotation (“like this.”)
* If a footnote is needed in that instance it goes after the quotation (like this.”[[1]](#footnote-1))

1. Mr. Shields. *Essay Writing: Embedding Quotations/References*. (Canada: Weldon Press) 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)