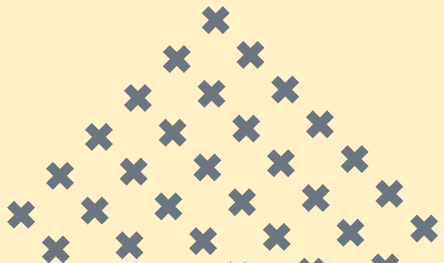


Advanced & Digital Media Virtual Learning

HS/Advanced & Digital Media

May 8, 2020



Lesson: [Quote Transitions (5/8/20)]

Objective/Learning Target:

Recognize the difference between good transitions into quotes and bad transitions. Examine good quote transitions and why they are valuable. Create their own stories complete with quotes and transitions into those quotes.





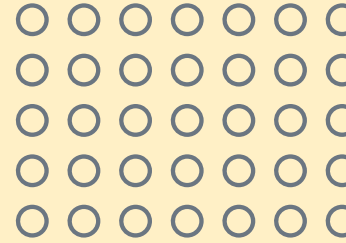
1. Pull out one of your old stories and pick-out what you believe to be the best use of a quote in that story. Explain why you think the quote was used well.





QUOTE TRANSITIONS

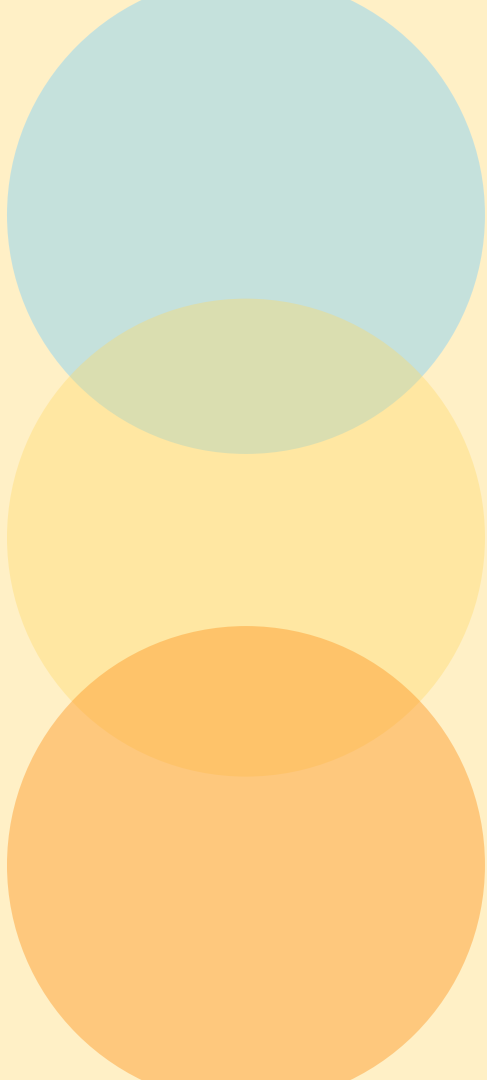
How we write in and out of quotes



01

Transition & Usage

Why transitions are important
and how quotes are used





Transitioning in and out of quotes is vital to journalistic writing the way transitions are vital to writing as whole. Using words like “therefore” or “nevertheless” allow a writer to shift thought and transition their writing. A solid transition sentence into a quote allows the reader to brace themselves for the upcoming information.

Transitioning is important




Extra
information on
transition
words



Quotes used in journalistic stories are much different than the quotes you might use in an English or History paper where you are quoting research. In journalism the quotes are from people you have interviewed. You are telling their story. They are the main characters not just supporting ideas like research quotations.





Academic style quotation (MLA)

Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

Notice that there's a citation because the quote is pulled from text.

Journalistic quotation

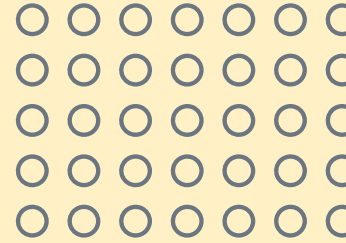
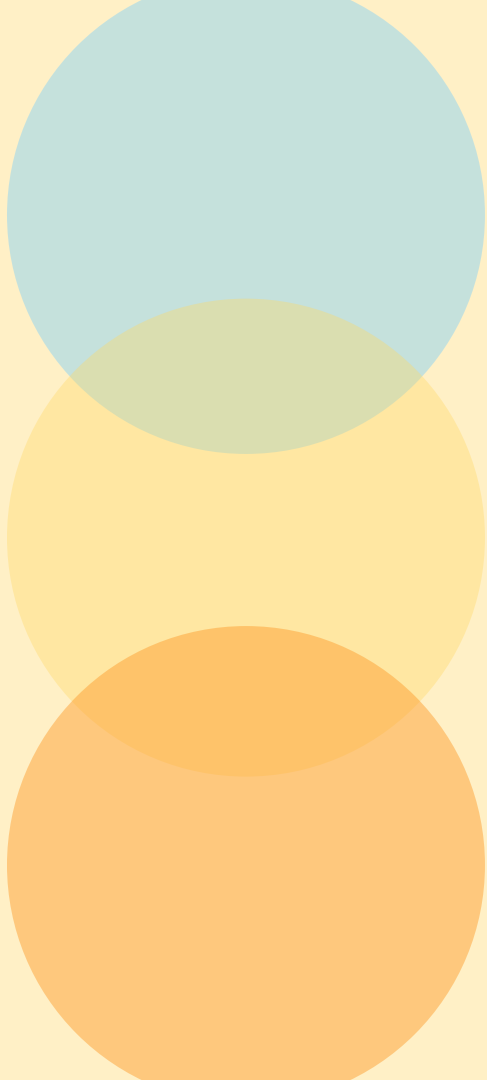
"I want my work to be incessant in reminding others of our own precarity," said Wright.

In journalism the quote is the point. The subject is telling their story. The citation is simply that the sources said these words. The quote exists on its own without support.



Example of how they differ





02

How to transition

Moving in and out of
quotations





In journalism transitioning into a quote is done quickly. It's rarely more than a sentence. And that sentence exists to prepare the reader for the information that is coming. Quoting someone with no primer often causes the writing to feel clunky and disconnected.

What is quote transitioning?



Read this story
then we'll
break down
the transitions



Even though E. is financing their education through loans—E.’s parents have no real relationship, financial or otherwise, with the school—e-mail messages about the end of in-person classes and the closure of campus went to all students’ parents. “We are trying to get away from our parents, but, unfortunately, the college system doesn’t really allow dependency overrides,” E. told me. “If your parents make a hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year but they are not willing to help you pay for college, there isn’t a lot of sensitivity to that.”





The first quote transition is long. She's describing a situation where E. has no relationship with their parents but the school still sends and email to them.

The following quote is essentially a response to that from E. They talk about how college for them is an attempt at distance from parents. It also reiterates in their own words how there's no relationship


The transition here is creating a situation where E. is responding to the story itself. This is an easy way for people to digest quotes. They easily identify responses.





Example

E.'s parents wanted to know why E. wasn't coming home, and E. couldn't really explain to them that college was supposed to be E.'s way to escape, once and for all, their parents' homophobic comments and the constant blare of Fox News. "I'd been trying to go to a college far enough away that they wouldn't visit me," E. said.



Breakdown

This particular transition is used for quotes that provide emotional context. The writing provides a situation that is stressful. And the quote itself about going far enough way that parents wouldn't visit shows how the situation has emotionally impacted the subject.



Example

Now she is at her mother's house in Westborough, Massachusetts, working as a server at a retirement home. "This retirement home is really fancy," she explained to me over Zoom. Residents used to take their meals in a dining hall, served by high-school students; once the pandemic took hold, the old staff "had to stop because their parents didn't want them working there," Shannon said.

Breakdown


In this example the transition provides a fact (where she's working). And the quote provides description about that fact (it's fancy). The author then uses that quote to springboard into telling the reader why the situation at this retirement home exists and allows the source to finish explaining the situation with a quote at the end. This is a great natural flow to using quotations. The writer allows quotes to fill-in spots that should could have easily written herself. This allows the sources to feel like they're telling the story and not the writer.





Example

She is financing her education through student loans: she borrowed twenty-two thousand dollars for her first year and thirteen thousand dollars for her second, when her financial assistance was increased as a reward for good grades. “I’m such an in-person learner,” she said. “I’m paying all this money for something that isn’t the same.”



Breakdown

Here the writer transitions into the quote by explaining the problematic situation the source finds themselves in. This allows the source to provide an emotional response to that situation. Quotes provide the emotional backbone to all stories. Good writers find ways to set-up these emotional arcs through transitions.






The Truman basketball team ended the season in defeat. For the second straight year they fell just short in the district semifinals. “I enjoyed the season. I think we performed at a high level and had our most successful year yet,” said senior guard Kaimen Lennox.



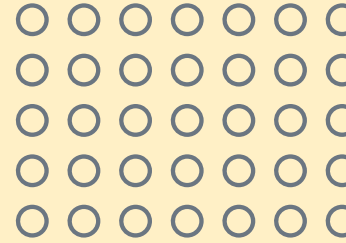
The biggest issue here is tone mismatch. The writing is somber in nature about coming up short but the quote itself is about how successful the year was. The quote itself is good, but it would have better impact if the transition into it was a different sentence. Rather than a sentence clarifying it was the second straight season they fell to defeat. The writer could have done several different things. They could have set it up for a response. They could have used that quote to provide context. The quote also could have been used as emotion. The following slide shows a couple better options.





The Truman basketball team ended the season in defeat. However it's not the losses that the players will remember most. "I enjoyed the season. I think we performed at a high level and had our most successful year yet," said senior guard Kaimen Lennox.

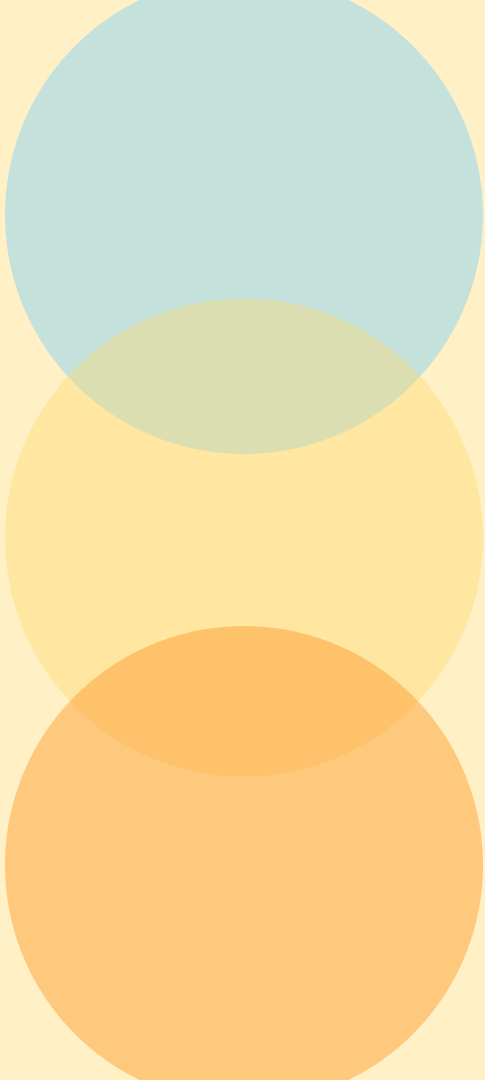
The Truman basketball team ended the season in defeat. But a loss in the finale did not taint the Patriot's perspective. "I enjoyed the season. I think we performed at a high level and had our most successful year yet," said senior guard Kaimen Lennox.



03

Assignment

Applying the lesson





This link will provide you with facts and quotes from a yearbook story that we ran a couple years ago.

You want to take those facts and those quotes and write your own 250-300 word story.

Make sure you are really focusing on proper quote transitioning in your story.

