

## Blending Your Quotations

One of the most important skills you can learn before graduating is **blending quotations into your own writing**. When quotations are poorly blended, or simply stand on their own, they look very awkward and disjointed. In the example below, we even see a comma splice:

She defends her husband even against her **sons**, **“Not** one, not another living soul would have had the cruelty to walk out on that man in a restaurant!” (Miller 1446).

Instead, we could rewrite the sentence as follows:

She defends her husband even against her **sons**, **and says**, **“Not** one, not another living soul would have had the cruelty to walk out ...

### There are many ways to blend a quotation into your writing!

#### a. You can formally introduce a quotation like the following:

Jones argues persuasively in support of smoke-free public buildings: "The rate of second-hand smoke..."

In this case, you are "announcing" a quotation, and a full colon is most appropriate. A colon is often used if you're quoting a full sentence.

#### b. You can treat it like dialogue:

As Jones has written, "The rate of second-hand smoke..."

The word "written" (or "said", if it were dialogue) concludes a subordinate "set up" clause. This creates a natural pause that requires a comma.

#### c. You can also "blend it in" as if it were part of your own sentence:

Jones has said that "[t]he rate of second-hand smoke..."

The original capital "T" is replaced by a lower case "t" to ensure that the quotation is completely blended into your own sentence. The parentheses alert the reader to your modification.

**d. Try to avoid using a quotation as a stand-alone sentence. It's not technically wrong, but often the previous sentence does not introduce the quotation sufficiently and the quotation stands alone like an "orphan" sentence. The result can be quite jarring to the reader.**