Quotation Lead-Ins

When introducing a quotation, choose a verb that best reflects the author's attitude toward the material you have chosen to quote. The following is a list of alternatives to the word **states:**

adds	defends	maintains
argues	demonstrates	objects
aspires	derives	offers
assumes	differs	presents
believes	disagrees	reasons
calculates	disputes	remarks
challenges	establishes	shows
claims	exaggerates	specifies
compares	feels	stresses
concludes	illustrates	suggests
contends	introduces	questions
contrasts	justifies	

Checklist for Quoting

Using original wording from a source

o Are the original words important? If not, paraphrase the quoted material. If only some parts of the quotation are important, consider quoting only those parts. Use ellipsis . . . three dots with a space between each – to represent words or phrases left out of quoted material. You do not need to use these at the beginning and end of your quotations since it is understood that you are taking it from a longer work.
Examples
Original: "Curley was white and shrunken by now, and his struggling had become weak. He stood crying, his fist lost in Lennie's paw."

With ellipsis: As Lennie continued to crush Curley's fist, he turned "whte and shrunken. . . his fist lost in Lennie's paw."

o Does the quoted material help to make or support the point of the paragraph?

o Does the lead – in to the quotation indicate who is speaking? If the quotation includes a pronoun like "her " or "me" or "them," is it clear who is being referred to? Use square brackets [ ] to insert the references if it is needed.
Examples
Original: George said, "That mouse ain't fresh, Lennie: and besides, you've broken it pettin' it."