How to integrate text evidence “seamlessly” in your writing

How

**Approach 1**

Integrate quote by using a sentence starter that provides context like who is speaking and when in the story are they speaking. You can also use a sentence starter to “reveal” something new to your reader

**Example**

**The protagonist reveals her feelings when she says**, “ I cannot live on this planet” (Heckler 4).

**Sentence Starters**

* This reveals/illuminates/illustrates/demonstrates
* This exchange/reaction/moment/ clarifies/explains…

**Approach 2**

Introduce the quotation with a complete sentence and a colon ( **:** )

**Example**

**The protagonist reveals her discomfort:** “ I cannot live on this planet” (Heckler 4).

**More Examples**

In "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For," Thoreau states directly his purpose for going into the woods: "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Thoreau's philosophy might be summed up best by his repeated request for people to ignore the insignificant details of life: "Our life is frittered away by detail.”

**Approach 3**

Use short quotations--only a few words--as part of your own sentence.

**Examples**

In "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For," Thoreau states that his retreat to the woods around Walden Pond was motivated by his desire "to live deliberately" and to face only "the essential facts of life."

Thoreau argues that people blindly accept "shams and delusions" as the "soundest truths," while regarding reality as "fabulous."

Although Thoreau "drink[s] at" the stream of Time, he can "detect how shallow it is."