

# THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF LEAD-INS TO QUOTES

## DO'S:

- Give a brief summary of the event or surrounding setting
  - **EXAMPLE** (F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*)

Additionally, in the world of Gatsby, gossip constantly surrounds the characters causing Nick Carraway to remark, “necessary to whisper about in this world”(Fitzgerald 44).

- Use phrases such as:
  - The author/character addresses
  - The author/character thinks
  - The author/character argues
  - The author/character suggests
  - The author/character believes

## DON'TS:

- Introduce quotes with no description to what the quote states
- Have a quote be the start of a sentence
- Introduce quotes with phrases like
  - The texts states/says
  - The author states/says
    - These introductions make the working of your essay seem weak and does not help describe your quote
    - **EXAMPLE:**
      - In the poem “Invictus”, it states, “I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul” (Henley).

## LINKS FOR FURTHER HELP:

[Words to Quote Lead-Ins](#)

[Background Information for Quote Lead-Ins](#)

[300 Ways to Say "Said"](#)

[Argument Verbs](#)

[Vivid Verbs List](#)