

## *Identifying the Speaker or Writer of a Quotation*

Usually, you want to identify the speaker of a quote in the text. Avoid disembodied quotes by inserting the speaker. The same applies to scholars that you are quoting or paraphrasing. You can also use a colon directly before a long quote, but make sure to clearly identify the speaker.

### *Unclear*

The “new terrorism” often uses explicitly religious language. “In thanking his god for the death and destruction that al Qaeda wrought on 9/11, bin Laden clearly had cast his struggle in incontrovertibly theological terms.”

### *Better*

The “new terrorism” often uses explicitly religious language. As Bruce Hoffman argues in *Inside Terrorism*, “In thanking his god for the death and destruction that al Qaeda wrought on 9/11, bin Laden clearly had cast his struggle in incontrovertibly theological terms.”

### *Unclear*

While imprisoned in Marin County, California, black activist Angela Davis wrote an article arguing that the government often refuses to acknowledge the political motivations for criminal acts. “A political event is reduced to a criminal event in order to affirm the absolute invulnerability of the existing order.”

### *Better?*

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## ***A Note on Block Quotations:***

Any quotation that takes up more than three lines of text should be rewritten as a block quotation. Introduce a block quotation with a colon, indent five spaces on each side, and single-space. Do not use quotation marks to set off a block quotation. Long quotations take up space better used to express your own ideas. As a rule of thumb, use only one block quotation for each five pages of writing. Break up long quotations when possible. See below:

### *A correct block quotation:*

Gunner Jessie Blake explained the rationale for the Wilmington Riot:

Black rapists were attacking Southern girls and women, those pure and lovely creatures who graced the homes in Dixie Land, and the brutes were committing this dastardly crime with more frequency while the majority of them were escaping punishment through the influence of the powers that be.

### *The same quotation broken up into the text of a paragraph:*

Gunner Jessie Blake explained the rationale for the Wilmington Riot by arguing, “Black rapists were attacking Southern girls and women, those pure and lovely creatures who graced the homes in Dixie Land.” He expressed chagrin that “the brutes were committing this dastardly crime with more frequency while the majority of them were escaping punishment through the influence of the powers that be.”