

# LBCC Writing Center: Lead-in and Signal Phrases

A **Lead-in (or signal) phrase** introduces a quote or paraphrase that lets the reader know how the quote relates to or supports your ideas. These come before a quote or paragraph to inform the reader the quote or paraphrase is about to happen, and it connects to the idea presented. It typically includes the name of the author and usually the title of the source. It also includes a verb that shows how the original author is using their information.

The following is an example for an essay using David Foster Wallace's "Consider the Lobster" to explain how lobster originally was not viewed as high-brow food: **In his article, "Consider the Lobster," American writer David Foster Wallace establishes the origin of lobster-eating when he states,** "Some colonies had laws against feeding lobsters to inmates more than once a week because it was thought to be cruel and unusual" (236).

Using verbs other than "says" is encouraged. Here are some verbs to use instead:

Counters, establishes, illustrates, writes, observes, argues, believes, points out, states, emphasizes, reports, claims, insists, notes, reasons

## Works Cited

Wallace, David F. "Consider the Lobster." *Consider the Lobster: And Other Essays*. New York: Little, Brown, 2005. Print. 235-254.

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