

“Floating quotes”--how to fix

Each direct quotes needs to be introduced with a “signal” phrase. Usually this means that you cite the name of the researcher in the subject, and include some information why you are quoting the material.

Wrong:

“This is a floating quote” (Smith, p. 6)

(This quote is just dropped into the paper without explanation.)

OK:

The difference between A and B has been explained this way: “Quote....” (Smith, 2000, p. 6)

Best:

Smith (2000) explains the differences between A and B: “Quote.....” (p. 6).

Yes! This construction identifies the research as a key source.