Brackets

1. Use square brackets [ ] when information needs to be added to a quotation.

   **Original**
   “Books used are expensive, but students should buy them as they will contribute information that is necessary to their success in classes.”

   **Quoted with brackets**
   “Books used [in classes] are expensive, but students should buy them as they will contribute information that is necessary to their success in classes.”

   Adding content with brackets adds context to the sentence for an audience that may be unclear about the sentence’s full meaning.

2. You can also use brackets to correct mistakes, add explanatory information, or change a quotation to fit in a sentence. However, the information in the brackets cannot alter the meaning of the quotation.

   **Original**
   Henry David Thoreau says in *Walden*, “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately.”

   **Quoted with brackets**
   Walden says he went to live in the woods because “[he] wished to live deliberately.”