Quote Exercise
Chapter 5, Writing the Basic Text Story
Page 93

1. She said the new position has “given her a brand new perspective on things.”
   ➢ Problem: “her” in the quote, not first person “I”
   ➢ Better to paraphrase this statement- and shorten
   ➢ Book citation at top page 92 (Don’t put words in a speaker’s mouth)

Rewrite: She said the new position has given her a new perspective.

2. “Well, I guess, I mean it’s hard to get excited- to get pumped up- when, the fans isn’t- uh, aren’t-behind you, you know?” Lopez said.
   ➢ Quote has too many stops and starts
   ➢ Fix by paraphrasing or cleaning up

Rewrite: “It’s hard to get excited, to get pumped up, when the fans aren’t behind you, you know?” Lopez said.

3. “We found the study results worthy of attention,” he indicated.
   ➢ Change “indicated” to “said.” Quoting the text: Nine times out of 10, “said” works best for attribution. Other supposed synonyms convey a range of opinion and judgment.
   ➢ Book reference on page 93

Rewrite: “We found the study results worthy of attention,” he said.

4. Weiss explained, “Our support staff...have really handled [the crisis] with flying colors...and made [us] proud of them.”
   ➢ Too many ellipses and brackets. If a quote requires too much additional information for the readers to understand, then paraphrase or use partial quote.
   ➢ Book- page 91 (bottom)

Rewrite: Weiss said his staff made him proud, handling the crisis “with flying colors.”

5. “We expect the investigation to be completed within 48 hours, and we plan to bring charges at that point,” according to Detective Kathryn Beene.
   ➢ “According” can cast doubt on a speaker’s words. While the phrase is fine to use when referring to a nonhuman source (a report, for example), it should be avoided when quoting people.
   ➢ Check AP Stylebook regarding capitalizing detective or not
   ➢ Book- page 93

Rewrite: “We expect the investigation to be completed within 48 hours, and we plan to bring charges at that point,” police Detective Kathryn Beene said.

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