

Nonfiction Signpost Notes

Quoted Words (QW)

- ▶ Being alert for quoted words really means to notice who is quoted and what is quoted. This might help you think about facts and opinions, see cause-and-effect relationships, make comparisons or contrasts, draw conclusions, infer, and think about the author's point of view, purpose, or bias.
- ▶ Students can quickly identify quoted words; what they do less quickly is think about why the author used a quote and what that quote added. When you, the students, look closely at what was quoted, you will often see it was to offer a Personal Perspective or Voice of Authority.
- ▶ Why does controversial talk often include quoting someone else?
- ▶ Authors do the same thing—quote people to help make the text more interesting or to help prove a point. For instance, let's take a look at this article from *USA Today* titled, *"New Citizen Exam is Democracy 101."*

"The goal is to make it more meaningful," says Emilio Gonzalez, director of Citizenship and Immigrations Services.... "You really ought to know what you're swearing allegiance to," he says.

1. Why did the author quote or cite this person?
2. What did the quote add to the text?

- ▶ The first several paragraphs prior to this quote focused on how the questions on the immigration test will change, but now the author has quoted someone. When I notice an author using a quote, I want to stop and ask myself why that person was quoted.
- ▶ I don't know Gonzalez, so I notice that the author told me what he does. I suspect he's got some real opinions about this new exam.
- ▶ He says this makes the exam more meaningful, and this comment, about knowing what someone is swearing allegiance to, shows me he thinks this test is very important. I think the author is showing me a Voice of Authority who supports this change.

*****Now, skim "Vampires Prey on Panama" and highlight any quoted words.**

- ▶ **Why did the author quote or cite these people? Also, what did the quotes possibly add to the text?**