

INCORPORATING QUOTES

Use quotes (statements) from other sources as a part of your own writing!

Why Quote?



- **The best proof that a work of literature does what you say it does is textual evidence** – the words and sentences you can quote from the poem, the story, or the play you are discussing.
- **If you say that a character in a story is evil,** can you quote a passage in which there is evidence of him clearly saying or doing something evil?

How to Use Quotes #1

- You should incorporate the quote into your **own** sentence.
- DO NOT quote an entire sentence or paragraph by itself. Pick out the key words and work them into a sentence of your own.
- **WRONG:** Richard Cory was very polite. “He was a gentleman from sole to crown.” Also, he was good looking. “Clean favored and imperially slim.”

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE PREVIOUS EXAMPLE?

How to Use Quotes #2

- Avoid having two quotations in a row.
- Your own commentary should bridge the two quotes.
- **WRONG:** Richard Cory had everything going for him. “He was a gentleman from sole to crown.” “And he was rich – yes, richer than a king.”

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE PREVIOUS EXAMPLE?

How to Use Quotes #3

- BLEND the quotation into your own sentences.
- BLENDING usually means *Your words, “quoted words,” your words.*
- NOT WELL BLENDED: “Darkened by the gloomiest trees” shows just how frightening the forest is.

A Few More Things

- A writer uses quotes to PROVE something in his or her paper – just like a lawyer uses evidence to PROVE that the client is innocent (or guilty).
- Remember the three I's:

Introduce, Incorporate, Interpret

Introduce!

- Introduce the quote by saying something before the quote to prepare the reader for what lies ahead.

WAYS TO INTRODUCE QUOTES:

- Near the beginning of Chapter Two, Joe says, ...
- According to the University of Georgia, ...
- Most of the people surveyed state, ...
- After the investigation, the detective declared, ...

Incorporate!

- According to _____, “_____.”
- _____ cites _____ who claims that “_____.”
- As _____ explains, “_____.”
- _____ contends that “_____.”
- In fact, _____ asserts that “_____.”
- _____ illustrates “_____.”
- _____ argues “_____.”

Interpret!

- According to Orwell, “Totalitarianism is dangerous.” This comment suggests that absolute power of any entity over a population is a threat to the freedom of those under that power.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. famously said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” His remark was made during the height of the civil rights movement of the 1960’s during the struggle against segregation.

Practice on your own sheet of paper.

1. Incorporate the quote: “I would do anything for a new cell phone.”
2. Write an introduction and quote for this interpretation: This reveals that Joe is a sensitive and caring friend.
3. Introduce the quote: “I love you.” Winston took the note and quickly walked away.
4. Incorporate the quote: “George Orwell’s dystopian novel suggests the brutal consequences of unquestioning patriotism.”

MLA Examples of Quotes in a Paper

- The literary world is grateful for the written work George Orwell left behind. According to the British Broadcasting Company, Orwell’s “lack of success as a writer forced him into a series of menial jobs” (“George Orwell”). Thankfully for those of us who dare to stand against poor government, his initial failures did not stop him from his ultimate goal: seeking and defending the truth.

MLA Examples of Quotes in a Paper

- Historians have mixed feelings about George Orwell's life and work. One supporter states that Orwell was "the independent radical who saw through Communist lies during the Spanish Civil War" (Packer). The lies referenced here are explained in Orwell's 1984.