

HOW TO SMOOTHLY INCORPORATE QUOTES IN YOUR ANALYSIS ESSAYS

1. Q: Why should you use direct quotes in your writing?

A: because doing so makes your interpretation or argument stronger;

A: because doing so increases your credibility as a writer;

A: because doing so is academically required.

2. Q: What are some typical problems with using direct quotes in your analytic essay?

A: not taking the time or attention to find the **right** quotes to support your idea;

A: not **joining** the quote to your own sentence, thereby creating chopiness;

A: making the quote **too long**, such that by the time the reader finishes the quote they have forgotten what point you were making;

A: improper **documentation**

SOLUTIONS:

1. Don't play "Pin the Quote on the Paragraph". **Incorporate** your quotes.

Define the word "incorporate": _____

2. In your paragraph, be sure to first introduce and discuss your idea. Your quote should always support and come after your idea, rather than drawing the idea out of the quote. (For this reason, you should *never begin or end a paragraph with a quote*.)

3. Explain and connect the quote into your idea. Don't just imply. Use primarily **your own** sentences, and work parts of the author's sentences into them. Always link a quote to your own sentence. Never have "stand-alone" quotes"

Wrong: Hawthorne wants the reader to condemn Dimmesdale. "He was a broken man, and the townspeople turned away" (224). Dimmesdale was a liar, and...

Correct: When Hawthorne calls Dimmesdale "a broken man" (224), he wants the reader, like the townspeople, to condemn the minister.

Wrong: Researchers have discovered a connection between education level and lifetime earning potential. "A college degree adds over 40% to an individual's lifetime income" (Smith, 33). This fact means that...

Correct: Researchers have discovered a connection between education level and lifetime earning potential, noting that sometimes "a college degree adds over 40% to an individual's lifetime income" (Smith, 33). This fact means that...

4. Keep your quotes short! Use a really long quote only rarely. The shorter the clip of the quote, the better. Rarely do you need multiple sentences. Almost never do you need a whole paragraph. Often, you don't even need the whole sentence.
5. Document correctly. (Name, page) punctuation. If the author is understood, just (87). If poetry, signal line changes with a /.

SOME EXAMPLES OF QUOTES CORRECTLY INCORPORATED:

... Wilson's goal with this symbol is to make clear his dark view of contemporary life—to stage the “coarse, cynical, heartless dramas life has to offer” (Brown, 449). Miss Julie's character becomes his “vehicle” (450) for this purpose, as she goes here and does that...

...Smith illuminates his criticism of this society through the character of Pa, whom he calls “the ancestral voice” in his introduction (5). Pa is also...

At the start of the play, Shakespeare immediately contrasts order with chaos. The audience, like all audiences, expects order, but Scene One begins with a chaotic storm. The spectacle onstage is dramatic, violent, and loud. Shakespeare depicts a “tempestuous noise of thunder and lightening” (I, i, 1). The storm rages and the boatswain, normally a sailor representative of order, instead conveys confusion when he screams, “We split, we split, we split!” (I, i 66). This is the breakdown of the old order, from which a new order will emerge. The storm pins down the mariners in different spots on the island (I,i,212) until Miranda tells her father, “If by your art you have / Put the wild waters in this roar, allay them” (I, ii, 1-2). Prospero stops, the storm abates, and the audience follows along as new patterns and relationships begin to develop.