



Quote Integration

WHAT?

Quotes are words taken directly from a source, enclosed in quotation marks (“”). A quote is different from a paraphrase, which is a summary of ideas from a source and does not use quotation marks (but still gets cited). Effective quote integration builds a writer’s credibility by introducing evidence in a strong, clear manner.

WHY?

Quotes are good for supporting arguments, introducing unfamiliar words or concepts, and preserving particular language from a source. Quotes are generally used less often than paraphrases. Often, quotes are saved for when something must be said in the exact way the source said it—in other words, when a paraphrase won’t work.

HOW?

When using a quote in your paper, remember the quote sandwich rule. A good sandwich has three parts: bread, filling, bread. Likewise, a good quote sandwich has three parts: introduce, quote, analyze.

The Quote Sandwich:

Introduce – This is the first slice of bread in your quote sandwich. Introduce your source and explain why they are relevant to your research.
(For example: *Zara Lee, a professor of English literature at the University of Excellence, writes about quote integration.*)

Quote – This is the middle of your sandwich, where you put your quote inside quotation marks. Make sure to include a citation.
(For example: *“Effective quote integration builds a writer’s credibility by introducing evidence in a strong, clear manner,” she asserts (Lee 173).*)

Analyze – This is the last slice of bread in your quote sandwich. Explain the quote in your own words, give your own thoughts about it, and tie it onto the rest of your paragraph.
(For example: *Here, Professor Lee shows us the purpose of integrating quotes.*)

Remember that all three parts are important for a good quote sandwich! Just like a sandwich needs two slices of bread to hold it together, a quote sandwich needs both introduction and analysis to fit into your paper. Put together, a quote sandwich looks like this:

- *Zara Lee, a professor of English literature at the University of Excellence, writes about quote integration in her book Why Quotes Matter. “Quote integration is using a quote effectively in your paper,” she asserts. “It’s important for making quotes fit” (Lee, 173). Here, Professor Lee shows us the purpose of integrating quotes. This is important to remember when using quotes in our work.*

WHEN?

You shouldn’t use quotes all the time. Save them for the really important stuff, when they’ll pop out as something interesting. Check with your professor for how often you should use them: They may prefer you to only use one quote per page, or maybe one quote per paragraph. It’s a good idea to keep quotes short and to the point; that way, they become really meaningful to your paper. Using quotes effectively balances your sources’ words with your own voice.

QUESTIONS?

Some helpful sources for integrating quotes include *EasyWriter* by Andrea A. Lunsford; *The Little Seagull Handbook* by R. Bullock, M. Brody and F. Weinberg; and the Purdue OWL (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/577/01/>). For questions, check with your professor or ask Writing Resources. Create appointments at <https://bera.mywconline.com>, or just stop by for a walk-in consultation!