Using Quotes Notes

Everything you need to know about quotes to write your essay

Choosing Quotes

- What to do:
  - Use your *Kite Runner* book
  - Use your memory of the story
    - Use your quote sheets!
  - Find quotes that…
    - Directly connect to your thematic statement
      - Be prepared to explain how they connect (What does it say? What does it mean? Why does it matter?)

- What <u>not</u> to do:
  - Google "Kite Runner Quotes"
  - Use Sparknotes, Shmoop, Cliffnotes, etc.

Citing Quotes

Look at these three examples:

1. "I'll call thee Hamlet, King, father, royal Dane" (21).
2. "What wouldst thou have, Laertes?" (8).
3. "O heavenly powers, restore him!" (55).

Citing Quotes

- For this essay, use just page numbers
  - Do not add the word "page" or any variation of it
- Punctuation
  - If the original quote ended with a period, use no punctuation before the quotation mark & put a period after the citation
  - If the original quote ended with a question mark or an exclamation point, keep the original punctuation before the quotation mark & put a period after the citation

Introducing Quotes

- Provide a context
  - Who is saying it?
  - Whom is it being said about?
  - What is happening when it's being said?
- Connect it to a sentence
  - Avoid floating quotes!

Ex. Frightened by the ghost of the former king, Marcellus asks Horatio, "Shall I strike at it with my partisans?" (5). Later, Marcellus recants his suggestion, saying, "...We do it wrong, being so majestical, to offer it the show of violence; for it is, as the air, invulnerable, and our vain blows malicious mockery" (5).

Introducing Quotes

- What <u>not</u> to do:
  - Have floating quotes
    - Quotes that stand alone by themselves as sentences
  - Create a comma splice or run-on with a quote
    - Make sure you properly combine the quote to your intro statement
  - Make a quote the first words/sentence of a paragraph
  - Make your intro statements more than 2 - 3 sentences in length
    - >3 = too much summary
  - Use any variation of the following phrases
    - This quote says...
    - In this quote...
    - This is a quote...
    - I found a quote...
    - As shown by this quote...
    - On page # it says...

Explaining Quotes

Each explanation should…

- Briefly translate the quote (if necessary)
    - What does it *say* ?
- Explain why the author might have done that
    - What does it *mean*?
- Connect quote to thesis/thematic statement
    - Why does it *matter*?

Explaining Quotes

Example:

Thesis: In *Hamlet*, Shakespeare demonstrates that it is sometimes easier to try and divert blame to someone else than it is for an individual to accept that he was wrong through the development of the character Marcellus.

Quotes:

"Question it, Horatio. …'Tis gone, and will not answer" (2-3).

"Shall I strike at it with my partisans? …We do it wrong, being so majestical, to offer it the show of violence; for it is, as the air, invulnerable, and our vain blows malicious mockery" (5).

Explaining Quotes

The first time the audience meets Marcellus, he is guarding Elsinore Castle with several fellow watchmen when the ghost of the late king appears. Marcellus urges his friend to "Question it, Horatio" (2) but then is rankled when the ghost leaves, stating, "'Tis gone, and will not answer" (3). Marcellus' first response to the situation is to urge Horatio to speak to the ghost, yet when Horatio acts on Marcellus' suggestion with a disappointing outcome, Marcellus does not make any effort to accept that his proposal may have been to blame. Later, the ghost reappears, and Marcellus, frightened, asks Horatio, "Shall I strike at it with my partisans?" (5). The ghost vanishes for a second time, and Marcellus recants his suggestion, saying, "We do it wrong, being so majestical, to offer it the show of violence; for it is, as the air, invulnerable, and our vain blows malicious mockery" (5). Again, Marcellus responds to the ghost's presence, this time with violence, and again, Marcellus' actions lead to the specter's disappearance. Consistent with his earlier behavior, Marcellus subtly states that the whole group caused the ghost to retreat as opposed to admitting that his responses were likely to blame. In both cases, Shakespeare utilizes Marcellus to make his point that people would prefer to blame others rather than accept their own wrongdoing; it was not the entire group that suggested they speak to or attack the ghost, but Marcellus himself. Rather than admit that his proposals may have caused the ghost to disappear, Marcellus diverts the blame to everyone present, presumably in an attempt to make himself feel more comfortable with his role in the outcome of the evening.

Translate   Method of Thematic Development   Why (Author)   Connect to Thesis

Body Paragraph Structure

1. Topic sentence & intro to quote 1
2. Quote 1
3. Brief explanation of quote 1
4. Intro to quote 2
5. Quote 2
6. Brief explanation of quote 2
7. Expand on explanation of quote 1 & 2