

Using Quotes Notes

How to integrate quotes

Step 1: Finding Effective Quotes

- Need to relate to *both* paragraph topic sentence *and* thesis
- Can be narration or dialogue
- How to find quotes
 - Determine paragraph focus
 - Brainstorm relevant parts from text
 - Find the parts in the text
 - Choose a quote that accurately shows what you're trying to say
 - Check with Mrs. A if you're not sure if the quote works

Step 1: Finding Effective Quotes

- What *not* to do:
 - Google “[Book Title] quotes”

Step 2: Revising Quotes

- Shortening Quotes

- No more than four lines in length

- Use ellipsis (...) to indicate that something was cut out from the original quote to shorten its length

- Ex. “...I was curious to see her, I had no desire to meet her...” (Fitzgerald 24).

- **Do not use ellipsis to change the meaning of the quote**

- Ex. “...I was curious to see her, I had...desire to meet her...” (Fitzgerald 24).

- Using ellipsis in this way invalidates your quote because it is not actually what the author was trying to say

Step 2: Revising Quotes

- Clarifying quotes

- Replace unclear words with [clearer words]

- Original: “A moment later she rushed out into the dark, waving her hands and shouting - before he could move from his door the business was over” (Fitzgerald 137).
- Clarified: “A moment later [Myrtle] rushed out into the dark, waving her hands and shouting - before [Michaelis] could move from his door the business was over” (Fitzgerald 137).
- **Must be the actual person/thing being referred to**
 - Like ellipsis, you cannot use bracketed info to change the meaning of a quote

Step 3: Citing Quotes

- Parenthetical citations (in parentheses)
- Must include author's last name and page number
 - Ex. (Fitzgerald 4).
- Formula:
 - “Quotey quote quote” (Author's Last Name page number).
 - No period at end of quote
 - Exclamation marks and question marks are OK
 - No comma after author's last name

Step 4: Introducing Quotes

- Provide a context
 - Who is saying it?
 - Whom is it being said about?
 - What is happening when it's being said?
 - Ex. Gatsby explains, "...This woman rushed out at us...it all happened in a minute..." (Fitzgerald 143 - 144).
- Connect it to a sentence
 - Quotes **should not** stand alone as a sentence
 - Quotes that do stand alone are called floating quotes
 - Avoid these at all costs!

Step 4: Introducing Quotes

- What to **not** do:
 - Make a quote the very first words or sentence of a body paragraph
 - Make the quote a sentence on its own
 - Make your introduction more than 2 – 3 sentences long
 - Too much introduction = too much summary
 - Start with any variation of these phrases:
 - This quote says...
 - In this quote...
 - This is a quote...
 - I found a quote...
 - As shown by this quote...
 - On page # it says...

Step 5: Explaining Quotes

- Connect back to paragraph focus
- Connect back to thesis
- Don't explain what happens next; explain how it's important
 - What happens next = summary
 - How it's important = analysis

Step 6: Integrating Multiple Quotes per Paragraph

- Organization option 1:
 - Topic sentence
 - Intro to quote 1
 - Quote 1
 - Explanation of quote 1
 - Transition
 - Intro to quote 2
 - Quote 2
 - Explanation of quote 2
 - Concluding sentence
- Organization option 2:
 - Topic sentence
 - Intro to quote 1
 - Quote 1
 - Transition
 - Intro to quote 2
 - Quote 2
 - Explanation of quotes 1 & 2
 - Concluding sentence