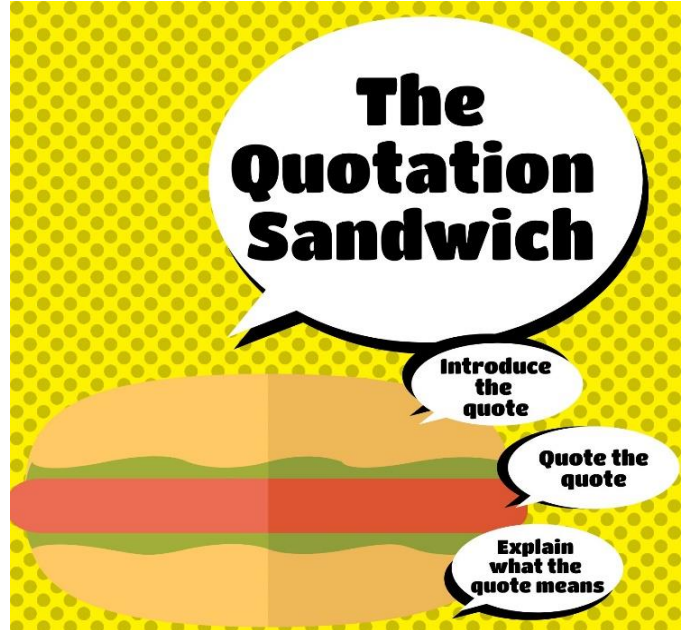


Writing Handout W-16

The Quotation Sandwich Method

Integrating quotes into your writing is an important part of providing support and evidence for the claim made in your thesis statement. Knowing how to incorporate quotes—either directly or through summary or paraphrasing—is important to the development of your paper. Using a method called the quotation sandwich can help you to incorporate your sourced material in a formal and accurate way to support your thesis. Quotes require information before and after. A quote/summary/paraphrase without an effective lead-in before and an explanation after is not adequate to support your thesis and ideas.

A quote sandwich encourages you to introduce quotes in your paper and shows how to tie them in as supporting evidence.



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Use the guide below to create your quotation sandwich:

The Quote Sandwich Sections:

1. Top Bread: Introduce your quote, paraphrase, or summary using the author's credentials, where appropriate, and *always use a signal phrase*. Sharing information about the source can give you and your source more credibility. Examples:

- A famous physicist from the University of Cambridge, Stephen Hawking states.....
- According to Smiley (2013)....

2. Filling/Meat/Trimming: Use the quote, paraphrase, or summary.

- Place "quotation marks" around two or more words directly quoted from a source.
- Paraphrase or summarize by writing the source information in your own words.
- Provide an in-text citation following the quote, paraphrase, or summary.

3. Bottom Bread: Explain your quote, paraphrase, or summary in several sentences.

- Clarify difficult concepts from the quote.
- Discuss how the source information supports the main point of your paragraph.
- Redirect the reader back to the thesis statement of the paper.
- Use the author's name when analyzing the referenced material.

Included on this page are sample thesis statements and sample quote sandwiches.

Sample thesis statement: For years, women have taken on the role of housekeeper and carried the load of housework while men have taken the role of primary money-maker; times call for change, and roles should be shared equally.

Credentials established

Jessica Grose argues that cleaning the home still falls unfairly on women's shoulders in her article, "Cleaning: The Final Feminist Frontier."

Signal phrase & quote

Grose notes, "At its most basic, a reason why a lot of men don't want to clean is obvious: it's not fun. The rewards of the other two traditionally female household tasks— childcare and cooking—are palpable. Your kid's smile, a delicious meal. But not so with cleaning" (12).

Analysis and connection to thesis

Here, Grose connects the task with its level of reward, which is much lower than the other types of housework. This reason may be true: Cleaning is not as fun or as rewarding, but it is not substantial enough to excuse men from doing their fair share of the housework.

Sample thesis statement: Some may think William Carlos Williams's "The Red Wheelbarrow" lacks meaning because of its short length; however, the poem's speaker could be observing and appreciating the everyday necessity of manual labor—or simply commenting on humankind's basic relationship with nature.

Credentials established

In his article, "*The Red Wheelbarrow: Dissecting the Minimal Masterpiece*," Tristan Gans discusses meaning and theme connected to humankind and nature.

Signal phrase & paraphrase

Gans notes that Williams's poem, while it was only one sentence about a red wheelbarrow, delivers the theme that life—which can be turbulent and sometimes deceptively complex—comes back to purpose and beauty (Gans 2011).

Analysis and connection to thesis

Gans describes the poem as simple in its form but complex in its message. The theme is developed with the simple, ordinary—but necessary object—the red wheelbarrow. It stands shiny and red after the storm "glazed with raindrops" and signifies a purposeful and beautiful object in nature, connected to necessary labor.