

Incorporating Quotes: The Quote Sandwich

Why you should use a quote sandwich:

The quote sandwich is a way of taking responsibility for the quotes you use.

- It lets your reader know who your source is and why they're credible.
- It establishes your own credibility as a writer who is careful to use reliable sources.
- It shows the source's attitude toward the information in the quote.
- It puts the source's ideas in conversation with your own and that of other sources, telling readers both how you interpret the quote and why it's relevant to your essay.



Parts of a quote sandwich:

Top bun: This is the introduction to your quote. Use these templates (or make your own) to introduce quotes.

- As the prominent philosopher X puts it, "_____."
- In her book, _____, X maintains that "_____."
- According to X, "_____."
- X agrees/disagrees when she writes, "_____."
- Avoid introducing quotes with redundant phrases.
 - Orwell asserts an idea that...
 - A quote by Shakespeare says...

Filling: This is the quote, as well as the citation of the quote. For help citing your quotes, see the library's MLA Citation Style Guide.

Bottom bun: This section is where you respond to/analyze the quote. This analysis helps to keep the focus on your ideas rather than your source's. Use these questions and templates to help you analyze the quote.

- What does the author mean?
 - In other words, X believes _____.
 - The essence of X's argument is that _____.
- What are the implications of what the author has written? (How does it develop his or her thesis?)
 - In making this comment, X urges us to _____.
 - X's claim that _____ rests upon the assumption that _____.
- How does the quote connect to the other text(s) you are discussing?
 - According to both X and Y, _____.
 - Y adds to/disagrees with X's idea of _____, when she says _____.
- How does the quote connect to your position and/or thesis?
 - I agree that _____ because _____.
 - X's position overlooks _____.
 - Although X is right about _____, I cannot accept his conclusion that _____.

For more templates, see *They Say/I Say* by Graff, Birkenstein, and Durst, pages 811-829.

Make Your Own Quote Sandwich

Top Bun:

Choose your introductory phrase. (Use the templates on the other side of the handout if you need help with this.) _____

Add the author's name. _____

Add the author's credentials. _____

You may find it helpful to try a few different introductory phrases to see which one fits best. You may also find that using elements from different phrases helps you get just the right introduction.

Filling:

Write the quote. Don't forget to put the author's exact words in quotation marks and the citation at the end of the sentence after the end quotes and before the period.

“ _____

_____” (_____).

Bottom Bun:

Using the questions on the other side of the handout, analyze the quote. Make sure you connect the quote to your thesis or position.

As a general rule, the longer or more complex the quote, the more analysis and explanation you will need to provide for the reader.

Put It All Together:

Finally, put the parts of the quote sandwich together. Like a sandwich, the parts work together to make something bigger than the sum of its parts. Together they become a piece of evidence you can use in a paragraph to support the paragraph's main idea and the thesis of your essay.