

Integrating Quotes: 5 Basic Elements

To use a quote in a paper you need the following 5 elements:

- I. **Topic Sentence: The main argument of the paragraph** – Your quote should always support your paragraph. Be sure that the main argument of your paragraph and your quote match up.
- II. **Source Information and Context: Introduction to the source** – this is where you reveal where the quote is from and what the source is about. There is a difference in introducing secondary and primary sources. For secondary sources you can usually just state what type of information it is – e.g. book, article, conference paper, etc. – and give a short summary of the source.

For example: In her book about juvenile delinquency, *Little Rascals*, Barbara Ladman writes, “”.

Primary sources can be a bit trickier. With materials like journals, letters, and personal accounts, it is always better to give a bit more information, especially if the source poses any problems.

For example: Perhaps the best known source about the Salem witch trials is Cotton Mather’s account in *Wonders of the Invisible World*. Although his version is more coherent than other accounts, it is a problematic text because he did not have full firsthand experience of the trials and he had a vested interest in seeing the witches prosecuted. As a result, the text has a strong bias against the prosecuted. For example, he writes, “...”

- III. **Signal Phrase/Introduction to the quote** – this is the opening statement for your quote. For example, *She says, the author argues, Algernon exclaims, he states.*
- IV. **The quote itself** – This is less obvious than it seems. The quote needs to be in quotation marks (“ ”) and needs to be followed by a citation (Mather 34) and then use a period. If you already mentioned the author’s name in the introduction to the source you do not need to put it in the citation.
- V. **Explanation of the quote** – NEVER quote without explanation. You should always let the reader know why you used a quote and what it means for your essay. Although the quote might seem obvious to you, in all likelihood it probably will not be so clear for the reader. Consequently, avoid beginning or ending a paragraph with a quote, it will only confuse your reader. Furthermore, do not quote for summary, if they quote is just summarizing the plot it’s not useful.

Quoting a Prose Story

Introduction: When quoting prose you always need to be sure that you provide the entire context around the quote, before you actually quote. The reader needs to know what's going on in order to make sense of the quote.

Breaking It Down: look at the paragraph below and try to identify all the elements listed below

One major factor that inspired the American Transcendentalist movement was industrialization, which tended to dehumanize and alienate people. Herman Melville's 1853 short story, "Bartleby the Scrivener" is an enigmatic tale told by a blithe narrator about the dehumanizing effects of industrial capitalism on the cryptic Bartleby. The narrator, a property lawyer, hires Bartleby one day to do copying work, which he does with aplomb. Bartleby is the first one in the office in the morning, and the last one to leave in the evening. Moreover, his presence in the dark office is negligible, as the lawyer has cordoned him off behind a screen in a corner where he does his work in silence. Indeed, he appears to be a model industrial worker until one day when the lawyer asks him to perform a relatively simple office task. Bartleby calmly replies, "I prefer not to" (Melville 345). The ambiguous phrase will resonate throughout the text, and becomes emblematic of Bartleby's inability to extricate himself from the industrial machinery. After all, had Bartleby simply said, "no" then the lawyer could in good conscious fire him and Bartleby would have to find work elsewhere. By saying he prefers not to, he reveals that he will always be imbricated in some type of industrial labor, since there is no escape from the ever-expanding reach of global capitalism. Bartleby thereby represents the dehumanization and alienation a large share of the American public experienced during this period. Bartleby's ignominious end, having found freedom in a prison, hints at a transcendentalist doctrine that sees success in the material world as an illusory happiness that belies the true path to freedom found in spiritual communion with nature.

Fill in the blank:

What is the

The main argument of the paragraph?:

Introduction to the source:

The introduction to the quote:

The quote itself:

Explanation of the quote:

In Class Work Part 2:

Look at the following writing samples and answer the questions.

Writing Sample A:

Race discrimination has always been a major problem. Toni Morrison's story "Recitatif" is about two childhood friends who grew up together in shelter one was white and the other was black. However, in the whole story Morrison didn't clearly show us who is white and who is black and used the language which shows how human can categorize the person immediately. In the story Toni Morrison, used ambiguous racial descriptions to describe the main protagonists. One example of this is: "she was black" I said, "like hell she wasn't, and you kicked her we both did. You kicked a black lady who wouldn't even scream" (Recitatif 620). These lines show us how the characters interact with each other keeping the racial difference in mind.

What parts are missing here?

Circle those that apply:

- a. Topic Sentence
- b. Introduction to the source
- c. Signal Phrase
- d. The quote itself
- e. Explanation of the quote

Writing Sample B:

The narrator lived in the house a few days, she always felt some places she was didn't like. "I wanted one downstairs that opened on the piazza and had roses all over the window, and such pretty old-fashioned chintz hangings! But John would not hear of it."(Page 793) She states, when she told him about which places should be fixed or changed, her husband rejected her notion and he didn't care about that. He just thought this place was good for her, she was need time to adapt to the environment, thus revealing patriarchal notions of female submission.

What elements are missing from this paragraph?

Circle those that apply:

- a. Topic Sentence
- b. Introduction to the source
- c. Signal Phrase
- d. The quote itself
- e. Explanation of the quote

Writing Sample C:

In “Her Virginia Mammy” by Charles Chesnutt, the narrator made description of the pianist at the beginning of the story. He made a description on how the pianist looked like and how she played the piano. The narrator says, “The rows of chairs along the two sides of the room were left unoccupied by the time the music was well under way, for the pianist , a tall colored woman with long fingers and a muscular wrist played with a verve and a swing that set the feet of listeners involuntary in motion.” (Chesnutt 1) This means that the pianist is a tall colored woman that can make her listeners dance while she’s playing the piano.

Circle those that apply:

- a. Topic Sentence
- b. Introduction to the source
- c. Signal Phrase
- d. The quote itself
- e. Explanation of the quote

Writing Sample D:

The ending came to be a shock to me, when Mr. Ryder during his Ball speaks about the visit from the elderly women early that day. Speaks about how after all could go so wrong and after all the obstacles that were put towards her. She still this believes that the man that she fell in love with 25 years ago, and still till that point of time still loves will come back into her life and will live happily ever after. Catching his guests hearts he announces “Ladies and Gentlemen” “ this is the women, and I am the man, whose story I have told you. Permit me to introduce to you the wife of my youth” (pg.714).

Circle those that apply:

- a. Topic Sentence
- b. Introduction to the source
- c. Signal Phrase
- d. The quote itself
- e. Explanation of the quote

Writing Sample E:

In Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wall-Paper" women in this time shows how lack of self-esteem and how they don't have the strength and spirit then the women in today's society. The main character of "The Yellow Wall-Paper" represents the lack of independence and strength. She has a husband named John who is a physician that does not treat her as a wife was meant to be treated, he treats her like a patient. The problem of the main character is how she believes that the world revolves around the yellow wall-paper. She felt a connection towards the yellow wall-paper and starts to communicate with it, the act of her talking to the wall-paper is due to her sickness. It revealed the lack of independence the main character shows, she tends to react when her husband is not around due to the conclusion she is not allowed to leave the room where her husband put her in to prevent her from leaving, however she starts to become less reacting when her husband is right beside her. "If a physician of high standing, and one's own husband, assures friends and relatives that there is really nothing the matter with one but temporary nervous depression" (Gilman 792). This shows how women in the 19th century do not have the rights to do things for themselves or the knowledge of independence, they only believe that marrying a man who does not have the same feelings and connection to them would give them a purpose.

Circle those that apply:

- a. Topic Sentence
- b. Introduction to the source
- c. Signal Phrase
- d. The quote itself
- e. Explanation of the quote