

INTEGRATING QUOTES

Why Use Quotes in Your Essay?

The essay you write for class must be **your** essay. It should be your own ideas and in your own words. However, many essay assignments will ask that you use sources or quotes. So why would you use quotes in an essay that is supposed to be your own work?

1. To prove that your ideas are correct
2. To illustrate your point of view
3. To demonstrate how you arrived at an original idea of your own

When to Use Quotes in Your Essay

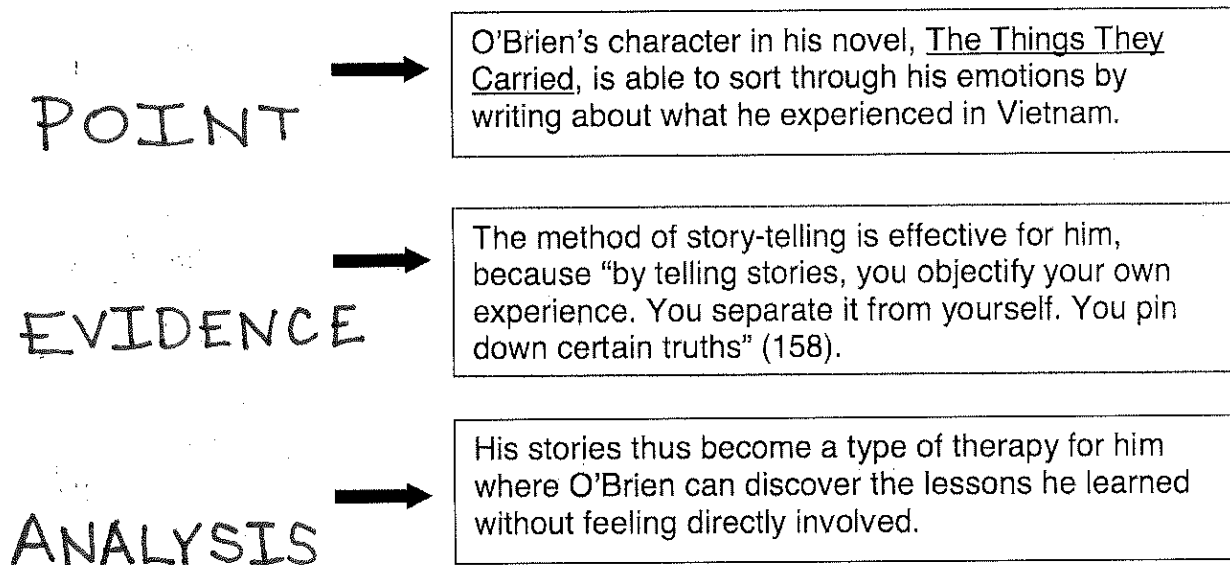
Usually, you will not use any quotes in your essay's introduction. An introduction should be entirely in your own words.

The paragraphs in the body of your essay will begin with your topic sentence (the statement that tells the readers what the rest of the paragraph will be talking about). Again, these will be in your own words. Do not start a paragraph with a quote.

After you have given the topic sentence and explained what you will be writing about in your paragraph, you can consider using a quote that proves or illustrates what you claimed in your topic sentence.

After the quote, show how it supports your point or idea; this will be in your own words and will demonstrate the connection between your idea and the quote you've used. It will explain to the reader why you chose the quote that you did and why it is relevant to your main point; the quote does not make your point for you. Do not end a paragraph with a quote.

Quotations can never stand by themselves. They must be introduced and explained.



How to Integrate Quotes in a Sentence

Remember, a quote should never appear in a sentence by itself, because then there is no context for the quote.

Example: Men are the sole cause of the war. "May God forgive the men who brought about this war" (Rhodes 260).

Here, the reader can be confused or the reading can be disturbed because there is no warning that a quote is coming, and there is no context for the quote.

Men are described as the sole cause of the war when Christian Rhodes states "May God forgive the men who brought about this war" (Rhodes 260).

Here, the reader knows that someone else's opinion is being used to support your own idea, and it gives a context to the quote.

Use Signal Phrases

A quote can be smoothly integrated into the sentence by using a signal phrase.

A signal phrase can be set up in three ways:

1. Writing a complete sentence followed by a colon and then the quote

Example: Demeter is not actively responsible for the plants' growth, but passively so: "When Demeter felt especially fine, tiny shoots of barley or oats would spring up in the footprints She left" (110).

2. Writing an incomplete sentence, followed by a comma and then the quote

Example: The author shows that Demeter is seen as passively responsible for the plants' growth, saying, "When Demeter felt especially fine, tiny shoots of barley or oats would spring up in the footprints She left" (110).

3. Writing a statement that ends in *that* or a signal phrase and then the quote

Example: Demeter's passive responsibility in the plants' growth is clear when the author states that "When Demeter felt especially fine, tiny shoots of barley or oats would spring up in the footprints She left" (110).

You can create your own signal phrase by mixing these basic styles with verbs. There are many verbs you can use to help you build your own signal phrase:

adds	claims	illustrates	reasons
admits	comments	implies	says
agrees	compares	insists	states
argues	demonstrates	notes	suggests
asserts	denies	observes	thinks
believes	emphasizes	points out	writes