

More On the Art of Integrating Quotes

This handout extends material found in our previous guides on using quotes and the art of integrating quotes.

Good Example of well-integrated integrated (or “sandwiched” quote):

result of this isolation, Minnie Foster is forced to take extreme measures. Elaine Hedges in her article titled “Small Things Reconsidered: Susan Glaspell’s ‘A Jury of Her Peers’” explains Minnie Foster’s reason to kill her husband:

But John Wright’s farm, as we learn, is an isolated, outlying farm, separated from the town of which it is, formally, a part. Furthermore, he refuses to have a
...long quote trimmed

The setting emphasized in this quote shows how Minnie Foster Wright struggles being isolated from the community and denied of minimal contact with neighbors, and how this isolation imposed by her husband propelled her to commit murder. Additionally, Lisa Ortiz, author of “A

Notice how this writer sandwiches the quote well by clarifying the context of the quote and preparing the reader for what it will say or show before the quote. Then after the quote, it has a sentence clarifying the meaning of the quote in terms of the writer’s argument.

POOR SANDWICH—DROPPING QUOTES

if they live there. Sheriff Peters makes a remark on the untidiness of the home and Mrs. Hale reminds him it takes two to dirty it. Then men don’t know what the women do. “Perhaps their own homes have been dirtied by similarly careless hands. [...] As housewives, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters know this to be true. (Ortiz)” The women acknowledge the men make as much chaos but the men don’t or refuse to see.

Notice this writer has dropped the quote into her text as a grammatically independent sentence. No set up at all has occurred. This textual evidence drops out of the sky into the writer’s paper out of nowhere. This quote is NOT integrated at all.

POOR SANDWICH—INCOMPLETE SET UP

both are combined to create a special moment. Ever since the beginning, Facknitz mentions the relationship between the two were not balanced to each other. From Facknitz, "a blind man named Robert who was once was the wife's employer. He has little experience with the blind and faces the visit anxiously" (Facknitz). This goes to

The short, incomplete set up of the quote should be avoided. You should have an entire sentence containing both parts of the set up (context + preparation).

POOR SANDWICH—EXTENDING

empathy but identification. Dawn Keetley states in "Rethinking Literature's Lessons for the Law" that "They, [Hale and Peters], arrive at the truth, in other words, through a process of sympathetic identification," explaining that their ability to identify with Minnie gave them the incentive to provide justice for her (page 3). Mrs. Hale is the one to recognize this when she exclaims, "We all go through the same things," meaning "we" as in all women understand the toll their role in society takes on them (Glaspell, par. 262).

NOTICE how each use of quote extends the sentence after the quote. When you end the quote, you should end the sentence, putting the commentary on the quote into its own complete and separate sentence. Notice also the incorrect use of paragraph number in the in-text citation

FIXED SANDWICH

Mrs. Hale is the one to recognize that this truth when she exclaims, "We all go through the same things" (Glaspell 462). For her, "we" means all women who understand the toll their role in society takes on them.

Think of this comparison as you introduce a quote into your paper to use as evidence:

Your paper is like a party you are hosting for a large group of friends (your readers). Your quote is like a guest who has just arrived and who you are introducing to your readers. As you introduce this guest, identify who they are and where they are from. Then, tell your readers what they are doing here—what the purpose is for their visit.