

Yet More on The Art of Integrating and Setting Up Quotes

Resources for learning how to handle other people's words and ideas inside your own

- Using Quotes Guide (with link to the Sandwich Principle):
<http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/quotes.htm>
- Avoiding Plagiarism Guide:
<http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/MLAguide/mlaplplagiarism.htm>
- Verbs of Attribution Guide (from UT-Austin Writing Center):
<http://dev5.sendit.nodak.edu/mrsreardon/files/2011/01/Verb-List.pdf>

To integrate quotes effectively inside your own writing for both meaning and evidence, you should “sandwich” your quotes (i.e. follow the “Sandwich Principle”).

BEFORE THE QUOTATION

1. Give the context of the quotation (where appropriate). Who said it? Where did it come from and when? (author, title, date/circumstance)
2. Prepare the reader for the quote: What is the quote about? What will it be demonstrating or proving.

AFTER THE QUOTATION

1. Make sure the significance of the quotation is clear in relation to the main idea of the paragraph and the essay. Clarify the meaning of the quote.

Examples

Wrong Sandwich—Dropping Quotes

Scarred by events in the forest, Brown becomes bitter and unwilling to see past the evil in the community. “He is always searching, scrutinizing, judging, condemning. The ‘loathful brotherhood’ can never become a loving brotherhood [...] because his suspicion isolates him” (Paulits). Walther Paulits suggests that Brown should have recognized, being a man of faith, that the whole ordeal was similar to the temptations of Christ. “Christ underwent everything that man suffered, sin excluded, is biblical truism that Brown should have been aware of” (Paulits). This stubbornness, this hubris, naturally leads into brown’s next folly, which makes possible a man to flirt with the devil.

What’s Wrong? The writer has “dropped” quotes into the text. Notice the first sentence ends with a period, and then the quote starts. This writer has not properly set up the quotes, nor has he created the sentence after the quote that clarifies the significance of the quotes. Notice how quotes are integrated properly below.

Right Sandwich

Scarred by events in the forest, Brown becomes bitter and unwilling to see past the evil in the community. Walther Paulits points out this negative effect of his forest adventure after he returns: “He is always searching, scrutinizing, judging, condemning. The ‘loathful brotherhood’ can never become a loving brotherhood [...] because his suspicion isolates him.” Brown’s hubris in his virtue causes him to mixing with his fellow townspeople after the events in the forest. Paulits goes on to suggest that Brown should have recognized, being a man of faith, that the whole ordeal was similar to the temptations of Christ: “Christ underwent everything that man suffered, sin excluded, is biblical truism that Brown should have been aware of” (Paulits). Brown’s inability to make this connection of his experience to Christ’s is a result of his stubbornness and self-centeredness. ...more...

Wrong Sandwich—Context BEFORE not AFTER

...The rug was filled with electricity and was used as a form of torture for these men. “A hot, violent force tore through my body, shaking me like a wet rat” says the narrator (pg. 273). This form of treatment is as if these human beings were animals.

What's Wrong? The quote is dropped into the text, and the context describing who said these words is put AFTER the quote when it should be BEFORE the quote. Also, the in-text citation only needs the page number (no “pg.”).

Right Sandwich

...The rug was filled with electricity and was used as a form of torture for these men. **The narrator describes what it felt like when he touched the carpet:** “A hot, violent force tore through my body, shaking me like a wet rat” (273). **This form of treatment is as if these human beings were animals.**

Wrong Sandwich—No PLUNKING Quotes

Throughout lines 67-69, the change is shown through “Depending upon one another’s hearts, ye had still hoped that virtue were not all a dream! Now are ye undeceived! Evil is the nature of mankind. Evil must be your only happiness. Welcome, again, my children to the communion of **your race!**” (Hawthorne 349) **because Brown is shown to be converting and being part of this ritual.** Just as Bill Delaney said in his article, he mentions that Young Goodman Brown “arises mainly from the contrast between people’s real characters and he false faces they present to **the world**” which is true during the ceremony.

What's Wrong? Notice how the writer continues the sentence after the quote. Never extend after a quote in this way. When the quote ends, end the sentence. Start a new sentence to provide the significance of the quote. The writer also has not smoothly sandwiched the quote before or after. See the revision below.

Right Sandwich

The big change in Brown’s character comes at the climax of the ceremony: “Depending upon one another’s hearts, ye had still hoped that virtue were not all a dream! Now are ye undeceived! Evil is the nature of mankind. Evil must be your only happiness. Welcome, again, my children to the communion of your race!” (Hawthorne 349). **It’s at this point that Brown truly gets converted. Bill Delaney identifies the conflict within Brown to originate in an irreconcilable contrast Brown experiences;** [this conflict] “arises mainly from the contrast between people’s real characters and he false faces they present to the world.” **The devil reveals the truth about the darker side of all humanity, and Brown is changed forever.**

Wrong Sandwich—Avoid Flow In Quotes

At one scene, Brown sat down by the roadside, proud of his achievement of not going deeper in the forest. He believed he had a “clear conscience” (345) and was ready to meet the minister. However, when the ministers did come, Brown his himself since he was “conscious of a guilty purpose” that brought him to the forest (348).

What's Wrong? The writer is not truly using quotes as evidence; instead, the quotes are more descriptive. Notice how the quote flows into the grammar of the sentence. There may be some places where this type of use of quotes might work, but it used rarely. Instead, set up and sandwich quotes properly.