

The Art of Integrating and Setting Up Quotes

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

- [Using Quotes Guide](http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/quotes.htm) --<http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/quotes.htm>
- [Avoiding Plagiarism Guide](http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/MLAguide/mlaplplagiarism.htm) --<http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/MLAguide/mlaplplagiarism.htm>
- [Verbs of Attribution Guide](https://www.centralia.edu/resources/docs/verbsatrib.pdf): --<https://www.centralia.edu/resources/docs/verbsatrib.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?
2. Prepare the reader for what the quotation will 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. Comment on and clarify the meaning of the quote.

Examples

Wrong Sandwich—Not Enclosing Borrowed Language with Quotes

The highlighted words come word-for-word from another writer/text.

I nodded my head in agreement at his words. I had done some research on the topic for prior government and economics classes. In fact, ²in 2007, two-thirds of American adults had higher family incomes than their parents did in the late 1960s and early '70s, although a third were worse off. Times have changed greatly in the past 5 years, but one-third is still a vast

What's Wrong? These words from another text are not enclosed inside quotation marks, so the reader thinks the writer of this paper wrote them, but he or she did not. The writer has misrepresented other people's words as their own—that's a problem! That, in fact, is plagiarism. Always enclose direct borrowings of text from another source inside quotation marks (and cite them correctly).

Right Sandwich

I nodded my head in agreement at his words. ... In fact, according to Frank Jones in a May 2012 article from the New York Times titled, “American Family Incomes,” we see information that counters Bill's perceptions of income for families in America: “in 2007, two-thirds of American adults had higher family incomes than their parents did in the late 1960s and early '70s [although] a third were worse off.” Times have changed greatly in the past five years, but as this quotes shows we still are better off than the previous generation.



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 shun 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—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 the sentence 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.

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—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—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 should be used rarely. Instead, set up and sandwich quotes properly.

Wrong Sandwich—No URLs for Author or Source Names

Justin’s family is not the only family affected by this issue. According to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/history/pdf/RowlandandLyons.pdf>, “many elderly Americans continue to struggle to pay living expenses on low or modest incomes.” This statement proves that even if there is health care or Medicare provided, it is not enough to coincide with the income of the elderly. It IS in fact a major problem. “It has been estimated that

What’s Wrong? An address is not a name. Never insert full web addresses into your paper. Instead, cite the author or title of the work, or name of the webpage, instead. The full URL goes in the Works Cited entry.

Right Sandwich

Justin’s family is not the only family affected by this issue. According to Diane Rowland and Barbara Lyons in a 1996 article inside *Health Care Financing Review* titled, “Medicare, Medicaid, and the Elderly Poor,” the economic tensions are very present in America: “many elderly Americans continue to struggle to pay living expenses on modest incomes.” This statement proves that even if there is health care or Medicare provided, it is not enough to coincide with the income of the elderly.

