



## WRITER'S STUDIO RESOURCES: QUOTATIONS



### What is a direct quotation, and why do I need quotes?

A direct quote is a word-for-word entry of someone else's words reproduced within your own writing. Direct quotes are always enclosed within "quotation marks." Quotes help to:

- Legitimize and support your claims.
- Show specific words and ideas being analyzed.
- Show the exact words of an argument you are countering
- Add to your ethos

### How do I use quotes?



#### The Quote Sandwich

##### Introduce the quote: The Top Slice Of Bread

- Quotes should never be dropped into an essay without context. Lead into your quotes with information about the source: who are you quoting and why? Where is the information coming from? Why should readers care about what this person has to say (what are the author's credentials)? Use signal phrases to help you set up your quotes:
- *In a research article exploring the impact of global climate change on sea levels, X states that. . .*
- *In the words of noted philosopher X. . .*
- *According to X. . .*

##### Quote: The Meat

- After your introduction, replicate the words of your source word for word within "quotation marks" followed by an in-text citation (in parentheses). It should look something like this:
- *As Captain Jack Sparrow says, "the problem is not the problem: the problem is your attitude about the problem" (Pirates of the Carribean).*

##### Explain The Quote: The Bottom Slice Of Bread

- You still need to do something with the information from your quote: you need to analyze it.
- Explain to readers how this information ties into the point you're making in your essay.
- Is this evidence to support your claims?
- Is this a counterpoint that you need to refute?
- Provide *your* response to the source to help readers understand what the quote is saying and what it means in terms of your argument.



# The Quote Sandwich in Action

## Getting Started: Find a quote

Before you can apply the quote sandwich to your essay, you'll need to find a quote that you want to use. Quotes can be used in many different ways to support or develop your claims. (Check out our guides on [Research](#) and [Using Secondary Sources](#) for help finding the right quotes for your essay!)

Once you've found a quote, you can use the quote sandwich to begin to build your analysis around it.

## Example Quote

"Experience can be put into any words, transforming it a little without falsifying it, to recall the experience." – A.G. Velthuisen, "On Truth-Telling and Storytelling."

### Introduce

- Identify the source of the quote and the author's credentials.
  - Where is it from? *Academic journal article*
  - Who said it? *A.G. Velthuisen*
  - What are the author's credentials? *Researcher*
- Work this information into your sentence leading up to the quote:
  - As *researcher A.G. Velthuisen* argues in an *academic article on oral storytelling*. . .

### Quote

- Insert the properly formatted quote after your introduction. Make sure to include the citation, too!
  - As *researcher A.G. Velthuisen* argues in an *academic article on oral storytelling*, "experience can be put into any words, transforming it a little without falsifying it, to recall the experience" (24).

### Explain

- Respond to the quote. Explain what it means and tie it in to the point you are making.
  - As *researcher A.G. Velthuisen* argues in an *academic article on oral storytelling*, "experience can be put into any words, transforming it a little without falsifying it, to recall the experience" (24). *Velthuisen is arguing that stories told orally tend to change depending on who is the storyteller—and that is part of what makes them so unique. These changes don't make the stories any less true, or less real, but it makes them part of a more deeply-rooted cultural tradition.*
- Remember, you don't have to explain everything about the quote in one sentence—that's what the rest of the paragraph is for. You should, however, provide readers with a sense of how this quote relates to your essay.