

## The Quote Sandwich

When you include a quote in your essay, it is important to “sandwich” the quote between your own words that give your reader important information about the quote. Imagining a paragraph as a “quote sandwich,” where the quote is the meat at the center and your words are the bread that surrounds your quote, can be a helpful as you write.

Before you insert a quote into a paragraph, introduce it, providing the context of the quote (i.e. who is saying the quote, where the quote comes from, and whether the quote comes from a particular part of the text). After you provide the quote, make sure you *analyze* it (i.e. explain why this quote is important to you, whether you agree with the quote or not, and why and how you agree/disagree). Here’s an example of a quote sandwich:

Introduce the quote:	In her article, “I Think, Therefore IM,” Jennifer Lee writes about what some high school teachers think about students writing in text language. One teacher she quotes, Lois Moran says, <b>“First of all, it's very rude, and it's very careless,” and then goes on to say,</b>
Provide the quote:	<b>“They should be careful to write properly and not to put these little codes in that they are in such a habit of writing to each other,”</b> This view is something that a lot of teachers might have
Explain the quote:	about students who write in text codes; however, I do not think that students do this because they are being rude or careless. This is the way many young people communicate, and they see it as something that is natural for communication among people.

When explaining quotes in your paper, try to imagine that your reader needs a little information about where the quote comes from and what it means. Here are some questions you should attempt to answer when interpreting a quote in an academic paper:

- Why did you choose this quote? What important information does it provide?
- Does the quote demonstrate the writer’s position on an issue? If so, explain the writer’s position a little. Also, do you agree or disagree with the writer’s position? Why?
- What background information (about the writer or the text it comes from) do you need to supply to your reader in order for them to understand the meaning of the quote?
- Are there any words that should be defined in order for someone who has not read the text before to understand what the quote is saying? Are there any words in the quote that are particularly important? Why are they important?
- What is the writer trying to argue in this quote? How does this differ from what you are trying to argue?
- At what point does this quote appear in the text? Is the writer/speaker responding to someone or something?

Adapted from Gerald Graff’s “As He Himself Puts It’: The Art of Quoting” in *They Say / I Say*