Incorporating Quotes Activity Sheet

Before introducing a quote into your paragraph, you’ll need to know its relevance/importance. To do that, you’ll need to understand how to analyze it.

Quick Overview of Quote Analysis

To analyze a quote, it’s important to do a few things. First, you want to make sure you’ve read the quote thoroughly and understand what it means. After that, you need to make sure you read each part of the quote individually and try and point out what exactly the author is doing; this could be in terms of literary techniques (alliteration, tone, etc.) or general ideas/concepts that the author is expressing. Using all of these observations, analyze (explain) what that quote means/what devices are used in terms of how it directly supports/doesn’t support your paper’s argument/opinion.

Incorporation of Quotes

When first finding a quote that seems it could be a good fit for your essay, ask yourself:

- Is this quote relevant?
- Is this quote from a credible source?
- Do I understand what this quote is about?
- What can I interpret from this quote? What might my audience interpret?
- How much can I interpret from this quote?
- Does this derail from the point I am making?
- Does this quote refute what I am saying?
- Does the quote reiterate what I am saying or does it support it with additional information?

Understand that inserting quotes for the sake of space or seeming credible does not always help your writing. It may actually hinder how cohesively you’ve formatted your essay.
Now, it can be difficult to determine when to introduce a quote, or even to know how to incorporate a quote smoothly into a sentence or paragraph. There are quite a few punctuational transitions that a lot of people like to use, such as a colon, a comma, or an ellipsis. These can change the tone of the sentence depending on what word you use before it. For instance, you might have a sentence that began with:

In this week’s reading, John Smith wrote, “Blah bu blah.”

But, you could rephrase it as:

In this week’s reading, it was written: “Blah bu blah.”

Or:

In this week’s reading, John Smith said that “...Blah bu blah.”

All of these work, especially when used in variation.

The beginning of the quote introduction should vary as well. For example:

John Smith wrote in this week’s reading...

This week’s reading, written by John Smith, detailed...

**Practice on Your Own**

**Quote #1:**

Pretend you’re writing a pop culture essay and you want to talk about Anne Hathaway’s experience on different film sets as a basis for your paper regarding body image in film. The quote is “There is no shame in gaining with during pregnancy (or ever). There is no shame if it takes longer than you think it will to lose the weight (if you want to lose it at all).”

How would you begin this? What can you gather from your own use of the quote? What can you say that might help your reader gather their own conclusion about your purpose? Write out one or two sentences below, using the quote:

From the Writing Center at the Academic Resource Center
Incorporate the Quote in a Sentence:

Say you are writing a literary analysis on *The Epic of Gilgamesh* and have to take a stance on the argument of Gilgamesh’s immortality or lack thereof. The quote is [to Gilgamesh] “The eternal life you are seeking you shall not find. When the gods created mankind, they established death for mankind, and withheld eternal life for themselves.”

You can begin anywhere in the quote, so long as it still makes sense or is relevant to the thesis.

Analyse Quote:

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Incorporate the Quote in a Sentence:

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Quote #3:
Say you have a paper you need to write on immigration rights. The quote is “Notably, the emphasis on a ‘pathway to citizenship’ for ‘undocumented’ immigrants, while maintaining the integrity of our borders through ‘security’ measures, and opening the borders to ‘highly skilled’ immigrants has come to occupy the public imaginary as the totality of immigration issues that require attention.”

There’s a lot to draw from here. Try beginning the sentence with something relevant to the quote, pick a place to quote and extrapolate after you quote it.

Analyze Quote:

Incorporate the Quote in a Sentence: