

Integrating Quotations into an Analytical English Essay

Quotes should **blend-in** with the rest of your writing. Below are some examples to demonstrate how you can include quotations in a way that **flows**:

Example 1:

- Great Expectations reminds the reader that nothing is more important than family and friendship and that forgiveness is an important part of all relationships. It is only after Pip has treated his uncle, Joe, badly that he realizes how much he loves Joe. Luckily, Joe loves Pip so much that he's willing to forgive Pip. **Pip expresses his appreciation for Joe's forgiveness when he says, "Joe was like a rock on the shore, and after I had wandered far into the ocean depths, he was there for me. He loved me no matter what" (299).** This metaphor of Joe as a rock emphasizes that Joe is so reliable and is always there for Pip.

Example 2:

- We can all relate to Pip's teenage selfishness. **Pip expresses the fact that he can only think about himself when he says, "How could I care about anyone else when I had my own problems to consider?" (236).**

Example 3:

***This example explains each of its five components below.**

(step 1) Once Pip is exposed to the upper class life of Miss Havisham, he begins to reject his family. **(step 2)** After a visit to Satis House with Joe, **(step 3)** he admits, **(step 4)** "it is a most miserable thing to feel ashamed of home" (120). **(step 5)** Pip feels guilty that he is embarrassed by Joe's behavior and the way in which he's been raised. Although he is in love with Estella and wants desperately to be a gentleman, he wishes he did not have such shame about his background.

Example 3 Explained

Step 1. TOPIC SENTENCE of your paragraph (what the paragraph will be about). It is like a mini-thesis. This is one point of your argument, your opinion.

Step 2. CONTEXT of the quote (where in the story do these words appear? What is the situation in which it is said? etc.).

Step 3. INTRODUCTION to the quote. Tell us who says it. The author? The narrator? A specific character? To whom is the quote addressed? About what are they speaking (if it isn't self-explanatory). Use a comma before the quote, or a colon if the introduction of the quote is a complete sentence in itself.

Step 4. THE QUOTE ITSELF followed by a page number in parentheses.

Step 5. EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS of the quote. Tell why it is important and how it relates to your thesis. Be specific about what in the quote, which words, lead you to that conclusion. Be thorough and logical. Most of your paragraphs should be spent analyzing, using your own words to explain how and why the quote you used supports your topic sentence and your thesis. In analytical essays, your analysis is the heart of the paper.

Dos

Do put double quotation marks

Don'ts

Don't ever say: 'And I quote...' You should not use the

around quotes – they're clearer to see than single ones and they don't look like lost apostrophes.	"I" pronoun in a persuasive essay, and the phrase is cliché.
Do quote accurately. If you can't remember the quotation properly, don't use it.	Don't ever say: 'The writer quotes...' The writer doesn't quote, that's what YOU do!

Helpful Hints

1. Introduce the quotation with your own words and integrate it grammatically into the sentence.

NO: In this study, children were taught effective ways to deal with confrontations through role playing. "They showed a significant increase in coming up with relevant solutions to interpersonal problems" (103).

YES: In this study, children were taught effective ways to deal with confrontations through role playing: " They showed a significant increase in coming up with relevant solutions to interpersonal problems " (103).

BETTER YET: In this study, children who were taught effective ways to deal with confrontations through role playing "showed a significant increase in coming up with relevant solutions to interpersonal problems " (103).

2. Reproduce the exact wording, punctuation, capitalization and spelling of the original, including errors.

Supplementary information should be enclosed in square brackets if within the quotation or in parentheses if after the quotation. Enclose in square brackets comments of your own added to clarify information or pronouns in the original. He felt that "it [the essay] should be analytical rather than descriptive."

3. Separate longer quotations from the text.

Use quotation marks and include within the text four lines or fewer of prose or three lines or fewer of poetry (use a slash (/) with a space on each side to signify the end of each line of poetry).

Set off from the body of your text five lines or more of prose or four lines or more of poetry. Indent ten spaces, omit quotation marks, and use double spacing.

These quotations are most often introduced by a colon. Smith explains the use of essay-writing terminology:

An assignment which asks you to do some library research to write on a topic may be called an essay, a paper, a research essay, a research paper, a term assignment, or a term paper. The terminology is not necessarily consistent: a term paper may tend to be a longer paper written in advanced courses, but not necessarily. You may be assigned a specific topic or asked to choose your own from subjects relevant to the course. (225)

4. Omitting words or phrases from quotations

Ellipses indicate that some unnecessary words have been left out of a quotation. We use ellipses when we want to make a quotation fit more seamlessly with the flow of our essay. Do not use an ellipsis to indicate that you have left out the beginning of a sentence; only missing words from the end or somewhere in the middle of a sentence need to be indicated with an ellipsis.

ORIGINAL:

The shadow of a cloud moved across the field of grain and she saw the river through the trees.

SMOOTHLY INTEGRATED QUOTATION:

Hemingway uses the image of a momentary darkness to suggest the woman's growing disillusionment. After her quarrel with the man, "[t]he shadow of a cloud moved across the field of grain[. . .]." (21). A similar shadow gradually develops over their relationship.

ORIGINAL:

That look of seeing into things, of seeing through a thing to something else, was in the eyes of the sheriff's wife now.

SMOOTHLY INTEGRATED QUOTATION:

Mrs. Peters sometimes appears to be almost supernatural. For example, Glaspell describes her "look of seeing into things, of seeing through a thing to something else[. . .]." (333). However, this "look" really demonstrates a sense of intuition rather than any magical powers.

5. Changing or adding words within a quotation

Use brackets to indicate any changes you make to quotations while fitting them into your sentences (for reasons of style, verb tense, or general understanding). Look again at the above change of the original word "she" to "[Dee]." Here's another example:

ORIGINAL:

"You don't have to call me by it if you don't want to," said Smith.

SOMEWHAT SMOOTHLY INTEGRATED QUOTATION:

The new and supposedly improved Dee tells her mother that she doesn't "have to call [Dee] by [her new name] if [she doesn't] want to" (234).

This quotation is technically correct (notice also the correct use of single quotation marks for dialogue), but three changes within such a short quotation render it a bit awkward. In general, if you have to change more than two items in a short quotation, it's better to find another way to write it. One way is just to paraphrase it (to paraphrase is to restate someone else's words in your own words, without quotation marks).

Sources: for additional information, please see the following sites:

- ✓ <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/ByFormat/OnlineResources/Fastfacts/WritingFastfacts/Fastfacts-UsingQuotations.html#Quotations7>
- ✓ http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html
- ✓ <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/ByFormat/OnlineResources/Fastfacts/WritingFastfacts/Fastfacts-UsingQuotations.html>