

# INTEGRATING AND DISCUSSING QUOTES

SMART SHOP



## The Basics

- When writing an essay in response to a text, you will be expected to quote extensively from that text
- Most of your paragraphs will need quotes
- These paragraphs can be organized around the quote
- Quotes should not be dropped in without a set up
- Quotes should be discussed
- Your topic sentences, supporting details, and paragraph concluding sentences will all, likely, need to concern themselves with the quote text

## QUOTE INTEGRATION FORMULA



The following is a basic formula for a paragraph that analyzes a quote.

While you may vary the formula, it is a good idea to try to have the following elements in your paragraph.

1. A topic sentence that tells the main point you'll make in the paragraph
2. Background about the quote (name of article and/or author) and/or contextual information (where it's from in the text, who said it if someone is speaking, etc)
3. A signal phrase that creates a smooth transition from your words to the quoted author's words
4. The quote -- enough of the passage so your quote makes sense, generally one or two sentences
5. A paraphrase of the quote (putting it in your own words) right after you present it to make sure readers understood the quote in the same way you did
6. A few sentences explaining your point about the quote, why you draw that conclusion about the quote, and how the quote supports your essay's thesis
7. A final sentence reminding readers of your paragraph's main point



# EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH

Apply the formula numbers to the sample paragraph below

Satanism often provides an outlet for the negative emotions experienced by abused or neglected young people. Timothy Zeddies argues in "Adolescent Satanism" that abused teens are particularly prone to adopting Satanic philosophies as a means to express their negative feelings or to celebrate their angry emotions. Zeddies explains, "Satanism is both liberating and familiar. It allows them to express and receive validation for their rage and hatred toward authority figures who have abused, neglected, betrayed, or abandoned them" (24). Zeddies claims that angry teenagers feel comforted by the angry and dark spirit of Satanic cults. This argument contradicts common stereotypes of Satanic teenagers as evil or malicious people.

While we often think of Satanism as a conscious choice of evil over good, Zeddies' argument demonstrates that this practice reflects deep feelings of powerlessness and betrayal experienced after years of abuse. His analysis could give us a more sympathetic view of this unusual and maligned religion. Rather than viewing Satan-worshippers as dangerous others, we could sympathize with the pain that led them to Satanism.



## Quoting Pro-Tips

- Never start a paragraph with a quote
- Avoid using quotes to finish your sentences for you or make that your only quoting strategy
- Never allow a quote to speak for itself
- Don't quote more than you can discuss
- For each line of quoted material, discuss for 2 - 3 lines in your own words
- Remember, quoting is a way to use ideas of others to participate in the scholarly discussion