QUOTING GUIDELINES

The Art and Rules of Quoting

**Quote:** “They have turned one of the nation’s best-paying manufacturing jobs into one of the lowest-paying, created a migrant industrial workforce of poor immigrants, tolerated high injury rates, and spawned rural ghettos in the American heartland.” -from Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser, p.150

**Rule #1:** Always introduce quotes, either by using one of the templates for introducing quotes (see page 3) or by integrating the quote into your own sentence.

**Example 1:** In Schlosser’s view, the big five corporate meat-packing companies “have turned one of the nation’s best-paying manufacturing jobs into one of the lowest-paying, created a migrant industrial workforce of poor immigrants, tolerated high injury rates, and spawned rural ghettos in the American heartland” (p.150).

*In this example, the writer is effectively introducing the author that s/he is quoting.*

**Example 2:** Much of the blame for problems faced by meatpacking workers, according to Eric Schlosser in Fast Food Nation, lies on the major meatpacking companies because “they have turned one of the nation’s best-paying manufacturing jobs into one of the lowest-paying, created a migrant industrial workforce of poor immigrants, tolerated high injury rates, and spawned rural ghettos in the American heartland” (p.150).

*In this example, the writer is effectively introducing the author that s/he is quoting as well as integrating the quote into his/her own sentence to give the reader a better understanding of the relationship between the writer’s argument and the quote.*

**Rule #2:** Always set the context for the quote and explain how the quote relates to your argument. You can do this by using either, say, mean matter, the quote sandwich or the three rhetorical moves explained in They Say, I Say, introducing, explaining and responding to the quote.

**SAY, MEAN, MATTER**

Some of the worst jobs in terms of high employee turnover and job safety are meat packing jobs.Much of the blame for problems faced by meatpacking workers lays on the major meatpacking companies because “they have turned one of the nation’s best-paying manufacturing jobs into one of the lowest-paying, created a migrant industrial workforce of poor immigrants, [and] tolerated high injury rates” (Schlosser, p.150). In other words, the meatpacking companies are exploiting poor rural communities, using workers who feel they have little power and busting unions in order to increase their own corporate profit. As a result of these efforts, profits have increased, but the working conditions, pay, and safety for the workers decreased.

**THE QUOTE SANDWICH**

Some of the worst jobs in terms of high employee turnover and job safety are meat packing jobs.Much of the blame for problems faced by meatpacking workers lays on the major meatpacking companies because “they have turned one of the nation’s best-paying manufacturing jobs into one of the lowest-paying, created a migrant industrial workforce of poor immigrants, [and] tolerated high injury rates” (Schlosser, p.150). As a result, the profits for these companies increased, but the working conditions, pay, and safety for the workers decreased, demonstrating that the big five meatpacking companies care more for money than the job safety and security of their employees.

**INTRODUCE, EXPLAIN, RESPOND**

Some of the worst jobs in terms of high employee turnover and job safety are meat packing jobs.Much of the blame for problems faced by meatpacking workers lays on the major meatpacking companies because “they have turned one of the nation’s best-paying manufacturing jobs into one of the lowest-paying, created a migrant industrial workforce of poor immigrants, [and] tolerated high injury rates” (Schlosser, p.150). In other words, the meatpacking companies are exploiting poor rural communities, using workers who feel they have little power and busting unions in order to increase their own corporate profit. Schlosser is right in making this claim because the profits for these companies have increased while the working conditions, pay, and safety for the workers decreased.

Signal Words for Introducing Quotes

To attribute the quote, use a variety of the following signal words which help to set off your words for the author’s words that you are borrowing to help make your argument.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| argue | announce | agree |
| announce | believe | claim |
| comment | criticize | declare |
| disagree | explain | note |
| point out | predict | propose |
| respond | remark | state |
| suggest |  |  |

Templates for Introducing Quotes

According to (author’s name) in (article or book title), “ quote” (p. #).

(Author’s name) writes, “quote” (p. #).

In the book (or article) (article or book title), (author’s name) writes, “quote” (p. #).

In (author’s name) view, “quote” (p. #).

(Author’s name) agrees when s/he writes, “quote” (p. #).

(Author’s name) disagrees when s/he writes, “quote” (p. #).

Templates for Explaining Quotes

Basically, (author’s name) suggests… (paraphrase)

In other words (author’s name) believes… (paraphrase)

(Author’s name)’s point is that… (paraphrase)

Templates for Responding to Quotes

*To disagree with reasons*

I believe (author’s name) is mistaken because s/he overlooks…

By focusing on (author’s topic/main idea), (author’s name) overlooks the more significant issue of…

By focusing on (author’s topic/main idea), (author’s name) overlooks the greater problem of…

*To agree with reasons*

I agree with (author’s name) point because…

I agree that (author’s topic/main idea) is important because many people don’t understand the signifance of…

*To agree and disagree (yes, but… or no, but…)*

Although I agree with (author’s name) point, I can’t support his conclusion that…

Although I disagree with (author’s name) point, I can’t support his conclusion that…

**Rule #3:** Always include an in-text citation for your source that includes either the author’s name and page number or the page number if you have used the author’s name to introduce your quote.

Author & Page Number

Much of the blame for problems faced by meatpacking workers lays on the major meatpacking companies because “they have turned one of the nation’s best-paying manufacturing jobs into one of the lowest-paying, created a migrant industrial workforce of poor immigrants, [and] tolerated high injury rates” (Schlosser, p.150).

Page Number

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Note: The above examples use MLA guidelines. If you are writing a paper for a class that uses APA or Chicago Manual of Style, you will need to look up those guidelines either online or in a style guide.