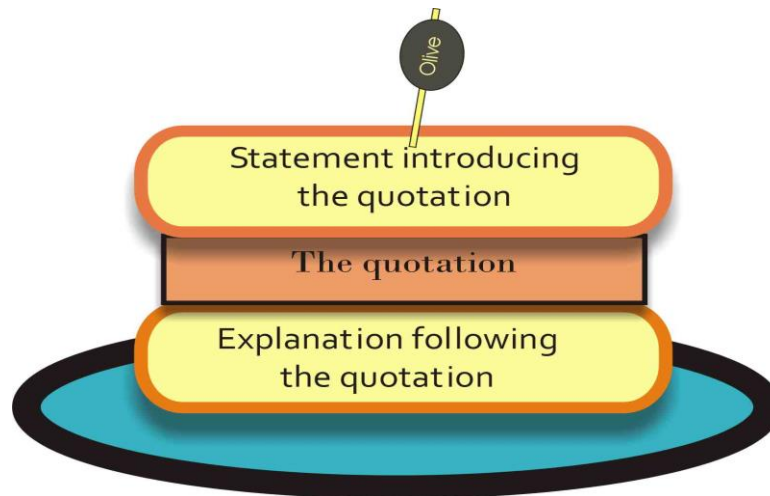


How to Build a Quote Sandwich

The Quote Sandwich is an easy 3-step process for using a quote in a piece of college-level writing.



- 1) Introduce the quote:** This is the top bun of the quote sandwich. Here you should introduce the author and give context for the quotation. In other words, give the reader a heads up on what he or she can expect to find within the upcoming quote. This helps the reader understand the credibility of the quote's author and understand how the quotation fits into the paper.
Example: Harvard film professor Howard Tucker discusses the role of movies in shaping the contemporary American public's view of the Vietnam War in his book, *Cinema as Protest*.
- 2) Use a quotation:** This is the meat of the quote sandwich. A quotation is a *word-for-word reproduction* of another author's words encased in quotation marks (“ ”). The quote should be “led into” with an introductory clause (see below: *Tucker writes, “...”*).
Example: Tucker writes, “Even though journalists and book writers have covered the war vigorously, it is the movies about the Vietnam War that make the most lasting impression on the average American today.”
- 3) Explain the quotation:** This is the bottom bun of the quote sandwich. After using a quotation, a student should explain its significance to his/her argument. This is where you explain how the quote proves your thesis.
Example: While there is a great deal of writing about the Vietnam War, the average American today is more likely to form his or her opinion about the war based on how it has been portrayed in film.

Now let's put it all together!

Films can influence popular opinion about social and political events, including war. Harvard film professor Howard Tucker discusses the role of movies in shaping the public's view of the Vietnam War in his book, *Cinema as Protest*. Tucker writes, “Even though journalists and book writers have covered the war vigorously, it is the movies about the Vietnam War that make the most lasting impression on the average American today.” While there is a great deal of writing about the Vietnam War, the average American today is more likely to form his or her opinion about the war based on how it has been portrayed in film.

Don't forget the bun! Many students will drop un-sandwiched quotes, or what teachers call a “quote bomb.” These are quotations without introductions or explanations. These quote bombs do not help the reader understand the quote. They make about as much sense as getting a meat patty without the bread, so don't forget the bun when you use a quote!