

Integrating Quotes into the Body Paragraphs

1. Give the **context** of the paragraph and the topic sentence.
2. **Introduce** the source where you found the quote.

This is where you say: what the title of the article is, where you found it, who the author is, and why we should listen to him or her. If you already used this source earlier in the paper, there is no need to restate all this identifying information in the sentence every time you use this article in your paper. (Just use MLA).

3. **Cite** the quote from the source in quotation marks directly and exactly as it appears in the source.

This is where you directly state the exact words of the author using quotation marks and MLA format. After the quotation marks close, before the punctuation for the end of the sentence, open parentheses, write the author's last name (or the first word of the entry for this source on the Works Cited page) and the page number (or paragraph number if it is a website) where the quote can be found, then close the parentheses and put your period at the end.

4. **Explain** the quote. *what do they say*

What do these words mean? Remember that a quote is something that you couldn't have said better in your own words.

5. **Respond** to the quote. *what do I think or say*

This is where you write why this quote is important. What does it prove? Why is it relevant to the argument?

6. **Connect** your point from this paragraph to your point for the paper by referring back to the thesis.

How does this source information connect to the argument? You may borrow some words from your thesis, but you cannot restate the entire thesis here.

Special note: The explanation, response and connection sections together should always be longer than the quote itself. If you do not have enough to say about the quoted material to do this, then you should find a better quote.

*By the time you do all this, you should have a whole paragraph. Don't be surprised if it takes a few sentences to complete each part. It is better to be long and thorough than "short and sweet" when it comes to introducing sources. Again, if you use the source more than once in the paper, you only need to follow all these steps one time. The second and third times that you cite a quote from the source, you need only follow MLA format.

Sample

If this is the thesis of the paper: Many American families consider themselves healthy and successful, when in reality, they are struggling greatly to be happy.

One of the source paragraphs might look like this:

Many researchers have studied the psychological effects of money on family life in America; some even suggest that money affects every aspect of the lives of children, from the material goods they possess to the quality of life they lead. Many Americans subconsciously believe that their success is based on their income, so they strive to fix all their problems by making more money. Dr. Samantha Durik, a researcher with the American Pediatric Association disagrees with this mentality in her article entitled, "Money Talks" in *Time* magazine. She says, "with more monetary 'needs' than ever before, American parents feel forced to work two jobs, which causes less time for family related activities, which in turn causes unhealthy habits to form" (York 52). Clearly, parents who work more are more likely to be tired and irritable when they come home and their children want to do homework and puzzles. Overworked parents may then turn to television to relax; consequently, parents and children will continuously have less time together, which causes strife and unhappiness. Ultimately, having more money is not making the American family more successful; rather, it sets up an everyday struggle for quality existence within the home.

**Notice where the introduction to the quote starts—after the topic sentence of the paragraph. Notice all the article and author information in the introduction. Notice that the response (from "Clearly,..." to the end of the paragraph) is longer than the source material and citation itself. Notice How the last sentence of the paragraph connects the source and the material in this paragraph back up to the thesis. In a way, the last sentence restates the thesis of the paragraph, by mentioning it in connection to the topic of the paragraph—money and work.