

Quotation Sandwich: How to Integrate Your Research

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Upper Bread: 1-3 sentences introducing the speaker/writer to the conversation

- Who is this and why should we listen to them? What are their credentials/authority on this topic?
- Full name of author and article/book (but not journal)
- Summarize main point of article, give overview of experiment, or provide any other context readers may need to understand the quotation or results you are about to cite.



Meat or Protein: the quotation or findings

- What can prove your thesis, your main argument?
- Start with a dialogue clause like “She writes” or “Collins reports.” Feel free to find synonyms for *says* but don’t use words you don’t understand. They often look very awkward in novice writing.
- Use the in-line citation style your genre requires (MLA, APA, etc).



Lower Bread: 1-2 sentences explaining the relevance of the quotation/findings

- Why is this important/significant? How does this prove or support your thesis?
- Interpret the data for your audience, even if it seems obvious.
- Draw a link between the information and your argument.

Tip: When you are struggling to meet a length requirement, add another quotation sandwich. It provides meaningful content instead of fluff. In fact, if you simply add a topic sentence to the beginning of a quotation sandwich, it can function as an entire well-written paragraph.



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