



Commentary is the most important and most difficult portion of support for many writers. In analysis, it is the commentary that **explains** your thinking to the reader. You need to explain your reasoning as to why the selected quotations prove your assertion and, therefore thesis statement. It should be evident to you why the quotation was selected, but your thought process needs to be communicated to the reader.

One way to remember what your options are for commentary is to use the acronym **SPIES: SIGNIFICANCE, PURPOSE, IMPORTANCE, EFFECT, or SUGGESTION**.

Using these trigger words should help you create meaningful commentary. Avoid simply paraphrasing the quotation or restating the answer/claim in your commentary. Explain your reasoning. You can also consider the **kind of evidence** and how it relates to SPIES.

- ★ Kinds of Evidence: **research findings, case studies, personal experience or observation, examples, facts, comparisons, expert testimony, and opinions**
- ★ S- What is the **SIGNIFICANCE** of the quote?
 - This **research** is significant because...
 - The significance of this **case study** is...
 - This **expert testimony** is noteworthy because...
 - The bottom line is that...
 - The implication(s) here are/is...
- ★ P- What is the **PURPOSE** of the quote?
 - The implication of this **comparison** is...
 - These **facts** underscore the idea/fact that...
 - This **example** intends to...
 - The goal is to/is that..
- ★ I- Why is this quote **IMPORTANT**?
 - This **observation** is important because..
 - It is vital...
 - It is imperative...
 - It is essential because...
- ★ E- What is the **EFFECT** of the quote?
 - The effect is...
 - The result is...
 - The outcome is...
 - The consequence is...
- ★ S- What does this quote **SUGGEST**?
 - This suggests that...
 - This advocates the fact that...
 - The recommendation is that...
 - It is recommended...
 - The purpose..