

Including Evidence in your Literary Analysis

Name: _____

Our goals:

- To learn how to integrate supporting excerpts/evidence into my essays so that the excerpts flow smoothly out of my own words. When I embed excerpts, they are given a context; the excerpts become part of my argument, and they do not distract the reader from my ideas. No quote bombs!
- To learn how to correctly cite in-text evidence using parenthetical citations.

Embedded excerpts: Introduce an excerpt with a lead-in. With a carefully worded lead-in, the writer works in the excerpt so the writing flows seamlessly from your lead-in into the excerpt.

No lead-in = choppy: Cherry speaks boldly to Dally. "Take your feet off my chair and shut your trap"(21).

Embedded: the writing flows from a lead-in to the excerpt: Instead of just walking away from Dally, Cherry boldly says, "Take your feet off my chair and shut your trap" (21). (Your explanation of HOW Cherry's statement is bold will follow the introduction of the evidence..)

Embedded: the writing flows from a lead-in to the excerpt, followed by another lead-in and excerpt. Cherry demonstrates her ability to think quickly when she helps Ponyboy out of a tight spot. When he shares his age, Marcia says, "That's funny, I thought you were both..." That's when Cherry interrupted and said "Sixteen"(16).

Hint: Do not give importance to the page number by beginning with, "On page 16 Cherry said..."

Paraphrase: Sometimes you can just tell what the writer said in your own words.

This **paraphrase** is followed by an embedded quote: Ponyboy doesn't believe Darry's apologies are sincere. When Darry shakes him after he gets jumped (6) and later when Darry slaps him (50), Ponyboy, despite Darry's immediate apologies, states that, "He wasn't really. Darry isn't ever sorry for anything he does"(6).

Use brackets ([]) and ellipses (. . .) to change verbs or other parts of the original quotes when necessary. This technique is especially useful because your literary analysis paper should be written in present tense, and the handy brackets will allow you to maintain present tense in your paper.

Do not: Dwight is a bully who takes out his anger and insecurity on those who are weaker than he is. "This made him furious; on the way back to the car he would kill anything he saw. He killed chipmunks, squirrels, blue jays, and robins"(Wolff 171).

Do: Dwight is a bully who takes out his anger and insecurity on those who are weaker than he is. While hunting, he boosts his ego by "kill[ing] anything he [sees]. He kill[s] chipmunks, squirrels, blue jays, and robins" (Wolff 171).

How to use in-text (parenthetical) citations:

Parenthetical citations are abbreviated versions of full citations and are placed inside of parentheses at the end of the excerpt. For placement, use the **QUO-PAR-PUNC rule**: Quotation marks - Parentheses - Punctuation. "... shut your trap"(Hinton 21). If the essay refers to only one source and you've already identified the title and author, simply follow references to the text with the page number (21). However, if you refer to more than one source, follow references to the text with the author and page number (Hinton 21). If the work is a play, then follow the references with the Act, Scene, Line (IV.1.211-216). After the conclusion of your essay, include a bibliography that correctly cites each source used.

Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*. New York: Puffin Books, 1997.