

What makes a good paragraph?

- Topic sentence that is very specific **EXAMPLE:**
 - *(literary)* The slave narrative *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs reflected the morality of American culture through....(choose examples from the book)
 - *(historical)* One historical example that affected slavery in America was...*Dred Scott case--Kansas-Nebraska Act—John Brown raid—Douglas-Lincoln Debates--Election of 1860...*(whichever one you choose)
- Specific quote or detail that shows your point
- Ample explanation (remember thesis/topic sentence--how does this example answer the how/why?)
- Another specific quote or detail that shows your point
- Ample explanation
- Concluding sentence—wrap up your point

Integrating Quotes

When integrating quotes into a piece of writing, you need to

- 1) set-up your quote
- 2) use quotation marks
- 3) include page number and then
- 4) explain

EXAMPLE:

In *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Harriet Jacobs uses her own experiences as a way to convey the horrors of slavery, and the impact is a sympathetic portrayal of slaves. For example, after Harriet's mistress dies, she is left to her mistress' 5-year old niece. Jacobs responds to this by writing, "But I was her slave, and I suppose she did not recognize me as her neighbor. I would give much to blot out from my memory that one great wrong" (14). This not only shows Harriet's acceptance of her life as a slave, but also her absolute hatred of her fate. By justifying the act with "I suppose she did not recognize me" (14), Harriet speaks of a larger issue: Many slaves understand and accept the hand they have been dealt in life. However, with Harriet also stating she wants to forget that "one great wrong" (14), Jacobs is also saying how angry and resentful slaves were. It is this conflict of emotions, as well as Harriet Jacobs' sympathetic portrayal of slaves that reflected American culture in the 1800s.