

Quote Integration: The “Quote Sandwich”

One of the best ways to add credibility to your paper is through quote integration. One of the most popular, or common, strategies for quote integration is referred to as the “sandwich method.”

What is the sandwich method?

When you go to add quotes into your paper, you should never simply “throw them in there.” Instead, you should properly introduce your quote, present the quote, and then provide further analysis of your chosen quote. Therefore, when it comes to quote integration, students are often taught to think of this process like a sandwich. The “introduction piece” is thought of as your “top bun,” the quote itself is thought of as the contents of your sandwich, and the analysis portion is thought of as your “bottom bun.”

Quote Sandwich



Now, let us see an example:

Dolphins are one of the smartest animals in the world. In fact, according to Nazifa Islam’s article¹, “Why Dolphins are the Most Intelligent Ocean Creature²,” “Dolphins have demonstrated advanced language comprehension. When taught a language based on whistle and hand gestures, they not only understand what a signal means but quickly understand that there is an order attached with it” (4). Dolphins must have a certain level of intelligence to achieve this kind of language comprehension. It is one thing for animals, like dogs, to understand and learn how to respond to a limited number of commands – but it takes a whole other level of brain development to understand the intricacy of another language.

Now, let us break it down by layers of the “sandwich.”

Introduction “Top Bun”:

“Dolphins are one of the smartest animals in the world. In fact, according to Nazifa Islam’s article, “Where Dolphins are the Most Intelligent Ocean Creature...”

¹ <http://awesomeocean.com/dolphins/dolphins-most-intelligent-ocean-creatures/>

This piece is the “top bun” of the quote sandwich. Rather than simply embedding the quote into the paper all on its own, the quote is introduced through proper segue and signal phrasing. Since the quote is meant to provide evidence of dolphin intelligence, that is the idea that is used to introduce it.

Hence the introductory sentence: “Dolphins are one of the smartest animals in the world.”

Once the idea has been introduced, the quote itself is introduced through a proper transition or signal phrasing.

Hence the phrase: “In fact, according to Nazifa Islam’s article, ‘Why Dolphins are the Most Intelligent Ocean Creature...’” which acts as both an introduction and transition into the quote.

The Quote Itself “Contents of the Sandwich”:

“Dolphins have demonstrated advanced language comprehension. When taught a language based on whistles and hand gestures, they not only understand what a signal means, but quickly understand that there is an order attached with it” (4).

This quote supports the idea that dolphins are one of the smartest animals in the world by providing a specific example of dolphin intelligence (language comprehension).

It has also been properly introduced by the supporting idea and followed by further analysis.

Analysis “Bottom Bun”:

“Clearly, dolphins must possess a certain level of intelligence in order to achieve this kind of language comprehension. It is one thing for animals, like dogs, to understand and learn how to respond to a limited number of commands – but it takes a whole other level of brain development to understand the intricacy of another language.

This is a crucial, and often forgotten part of the quote sandwich. Just as it is important to properly introduce a quote, you should never leave a quote “hanging.” In other words, a quote must *always* be followed by your words/explanation/analysis. How does this quote support your idea?

In this case, the idea was that dolphins are smart, the quote provided evidence supporting that argument/idea, and now the “bottom bun” explains how this quote supported the claim. It is simply not enough to let the quote “do the talking.” It is your job, as the writer, to explain how this quote serves as evidence in support of your argument.

In the dolphin example, it is explained in the bottom bun that the communication/language skills outlined in the chosen quote illustrate an above average level of intelligence among dolphins – evidence in support of the original claim.

****So, Remember****

EVERY QUOTE DESERVES A QUOTE SANDWICH

If you have any further questions regarding the quote sandwich/quote integration, please ask one of the Oxnard College English Reading and Writing Tutors!