“The Art of Quoting”

Adapted from Graff and Birkenstein’s *They Say, I Say,* Chapter 3 (39-47)

**Why quote?**

* Quoting adds credibility to your summary or analysis of a text, and quotes can act as evidence for your claims.

**Common mistakes that novice writers make when quoting:**

* They quote too little, quote too much, and/or they assume that quotes speak for themselves.

**Tips for Quoting**:

* Quote Relevant Passages
  + Be picky and precise in your selection of quotes. Make sure they’re the most relevant!
  + Don’t feel like you have to settle on any quotes. Chances are you’ll need to change as you write and revise. So let irrelevant or redundant quotes go.
* Paraphrase and summarize when you can instead of offering very long quotations.
* Frame Every Quotation by making “Quote Sandwiches”
  + Quotes should not stand alone as sentences or alone without any “lead-in” and “lead-out” commentary.
  + Failing to introduce a quote and then comment on the quote will often lead to confusion.
  + So make a quote sandwich, with the quote being the “meat” and your “lead-in” and “lead-out” being the bread that holds everything together.

**Templates for how to “lead-in”:**

* On page 5, X argues, “ .”
* As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “ ” (5).
* According to X, “ .”
* X herself asserts/implies, “ .”
* In his book, , X maintains that “ .”
* Writing in the journal *Commentary*, X complains that “ .”
* In X’s view, “ .”
* X confirms this notion when she writes, “ .”
* X counters this idea when he claims, “ .”
* X complicates matters further when she argues that “ .”

**Templates for how to “lead-out”:**

* Basically, X is implying/asserting that .
* In other words, X believes .
* In making this comment, X argues that .
* X is insisting that .
* X’s point is that .
* The essence of X’s argument is that .
* X’s concept about can be applied to .