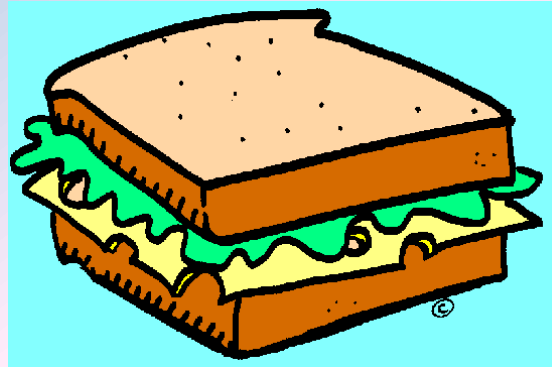


The Quotation Sandwich Method of Writing



How to write a really
Great persuasive/analytical essay.

What is the quotation sandwich method of writing and why are we using this cheesy analogy?



* a technique to make your persuasive writing better by incorporating evidence with your thoughts.

* will automatically increase the sophistication of your writing and make your ideas sound more mature because they will be more structured.

The Recipe for the Sandwich

The Quotation Sandwich is composed of the following three ingredients:

1. The Top Slice: An Argumentative **Claim**
2. The Filling: A **Quote** that supports the claim
3. The Bottom Slice: **Commentary** about the quote

Claim. Quote. Comment.
Easy to remember.

The **claim** is your opinion on the material, written as a statement of fact.

Technically, you are making an interpretive statement, analyzing the literature. The claim presents a smaller portion of the essay's bigger argument.



The **quote** provides concrete, textual support for the claim statement. Note: This does **NOT** mean that the wording you choose has to come from a spoken sentence written between quotation marks in the original text.

The **commentary** functions to tie the quote to the claim. You are taking a sentence or two to explain why your evidence is important to your idea.



Developing the Claim...

Remember, the **claim** is your opinion on the material, written as a fact.

Example of a claim statement for *Romeo and Juliet*



At the start of the play, before she has met and fallen in love with Romeo, Juliet is a dutiful daughter, willing to take direction from her elders.

Using a **quote** as concrete, textual evidence



At the start of the play, before she has met and fallen in love with Romeo, Juliet is a dutiful daughter, willing to take direction from her elders.

I'll look to like, if looking liking I move.
But no more deep will I endart mine eye
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly
(1.3.103-105)

Writing **commentary** after the quote functions to **tie the quote to the claim.**

At the start of the play, before she has met and fallen in love with Romeo, Juliet is a dutiful daughter, willing to take direction from her elders.

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Juliet's willingness not only to accommodate her mother's request that she meet Paris but also suspend judgment on him until she receives her mother's approval is surely the mark of an obedient daughter.



Another Example, from Elie Wiesel's *Night*

It was hard for Wiesel to trust in God when he saw babies being murdered before his eyes. Unable to believe in both God's mercy and the Nazi's unreasonable hatred, he writes, "Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust" (Wiesel 32). His faith was fading. What he had believed in with all his being before was beginning to seem false.

The following example is written by the same writer as the last example about a similar idea. Both were included in the same paragraph.

Wiesel was scarred at his first sight of the annihilation of the Jews. In witnessing the death of his race, Wiesel admits, “Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever” (32). The flames that engulf the flesh of the Jews also engulf Wiesel’s trust in God.

So what's the recipe for the triple-decker sandwich paragraph?



1. Topic sentence (your thesis/biggest overall claim)
2. Further explanation, clarification, elaboration on topic
3. Claim #1
4. Quote with context proving claim #1
5. Commentary on Claim #1
6. Claim #2 (with transition)
7. Quote with context proving claim #2
8. Commentary on Claim #2
9. Claim #3 (with transition)
10. Quote with context proving claim #3
11. Commentary on Claim #3
12. Clincher sentence summarizing and restating thesis (using different language than sentence #1)

An example of the triple-decker quotation sandwich paragraph

In Act I, Juliet is compliant around adults but flirtatious and willful behind their backs. She might seem modest initially, but in fact she has a will of her own and a playful spirit besides. In the first scene as she talks with her mother and the nurse, Juliet does little to suggest that she is anything but a very modest, “good” girl. When Lady Capulet asks her if she can like the family sponsored suitor, Paris, Juliet replies nicely, “I’ll look to like, if looking liking move” (1.3.98). No Elizabethan parent could ask more of a young daughter than that she be pure of heart and willing to be led. When she meets Romeo, though, Juliet flirts with him with a wholeheartedness that belies her seemingly compliant nature. All he has to do is suggest that he would like to kiss her (holily, of course, like a pilgrim before a shrine), and she flirts right back with him, playing coy and suggesting that “palm to palm is holy palmer’s kiss” (1.5.98). Between Romeo’s first line to Juliet and their first kiss is a mere 15 lines, showing unequivocally that when she’s with a boy her own age, she is spirited and playful. Furthermore, afterwards, alone with her Nurse, Juliet is devious. She tricks the Nurse into revealing that “His name is Romeo” (1.5.156), and she lies directly to the Nurse when she is caught bemoaning her fate, saying that she learned a little rhyme from a dancing partner. In deceiving her beloved Nurse, Juliet shows how determined and willful she can be. Out of earshot of the adults, Juliet is a bolder, more self-confident, more independent girl than her first scene with her mother reveals.

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