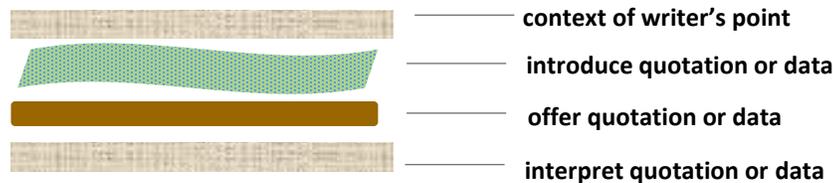


The Quotation Sandwich

Many writers find it useful to think of quoted terms, phrases, passages, and other kinds of data from outside sources as a metaphorical sandwich in which the imported quotation or data is the “meat” and the text introducing and interpreting the evidence is the bread.



context of writer’s point	A sentence or set of sentences that prepare the reader to use the quoted material or data as evidence in support of a point. Here, the writer prepares the reader to encounter the quoted material as an <i>exhibit</i> in the argument—much the same way that pieces of evidence are prepared <i>as exhibits</i> in a courtroom. It is clear to the jury that exhibits serve as evidence to support a defendant’s or prosecutor’s position.
introduce quotation or data	Indicate the relevant features of the original context in which the quotation appears or data is found: Who is saying what in which setting? (As Williams so keenly observes in her work on battered children,_____). Make sure to adjust the <i>signal verb</i> to echo the force or quality of the statement getting made (Hancock <i>reminds us of</i> _____; The Commission on Human Rights <i>insists that</i> _____; Jones problematically <i>avers</i> that_____, etc.)
quote relevant term, phrase, passage, or data	Include only as much of the original text or data as needed. If you represent more than four typed lines of another’s text, signal that you’ve quoted by using a block quote (indent each line one tab from the left margin).
interpret or analyze the quoted material	Explain why you find the term, phrase, passage, or data significant, paying special to key terms or data that support your argument. Remember that quoted material doesn’t speak for itself. You are responsible for demonstrating its relevance to your argument. You are responsible for showing exactly how it illustrates your point, or why it exemplifies an idea you have put forth. Without your analytic follow-up, the quoted material remains inert and unused.