

INTEGRATING QUOTATIONS

WRITING



PARAGRAPHS WITH QUOTATIONS

◆◆ THE PARTS ◆◆

A **Topic Sentence** that introduces the topic and makes a claim about it



Background about the topic: this may include the name of the article, the author's name, and/or contextual information



An **attribution or signal phrase** that creates a smooth transition from your words to the quoted author's words



The **quotation or quotations**--enough of the passage so the quotation makes sense, generally one or two sentences



Commentary about the topic--sentences explaining your point about the quotation, why you draw that conclusion about the quotation, and how the quotation supports your essay's thesis

EXAMPLES

A Topic Sentence:

In "The Stolen Party" by Lilita Heker, the kitchen is important because it signifies that Rosaura is a servant and not a guest of Senora Ines' birthday party.

Background:

When Rosaura arrives at the party, the first place she rushes to is the kitchen.

An attribution or signal phrase:

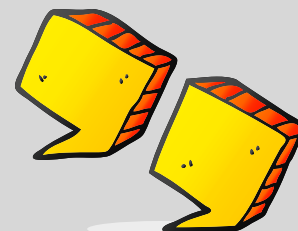
Senora Ines informs Rosaura she is the only one allowed in the kitchen when she states,

The quotation or quotations:

"You yes, but not the others, they're much too boisterous, they might break something" (Heker 2).

Commentary:

Throughout the story, readers can see the reoccurring instances of Rosaura being singled out to cater to the other guests. She serves the juice, the hot dogs, and the cake. Senora Ines only asks Rosaura to serve food, and only Rosaura is allowed in the kitchen, which is where food is usually prepared. This asserts that Rosaura's singular access to the kitchen reveals her true role at the birthday party: a servant.



See a more developed version of this paragraph on the back

A COMPLETE SAMPLE PARAGRAPH

In "The Stolen Party" by Lilitiana Heker, the kitchen is important because it signifies that Rosaura is a servant and not a guest of Senora Ines' birthday party. When Rosaura arrives at the party, the first place she rushes is the kitchen. Rosaura is eager to get to the kitchen so she can see the magician's monkey (Heker 2). Senora Ines informs Rosaura she is the only one allowed in the kitchen when she states, "You yes, but not the others, they're much too boisterous, they might break something" (Heker 2). This is an example of Senora Ines' word manipulation that she uses to prevent Rosaura from realizing that she's not like the other party guests. During the party, Rosaura often goes back into the kitchen to see the monkey, and she feels proud that she is the only one allowed into the kitchen; however, the immediate relation between Rosaura and the kitchen foreshadows what her true role is at the birthday party. Throughout the story, readers witness the reoccurring instances of Rosaura being singled out to cater to the other guests. She serves the juice, the hot dogs, and the cake (Heker 2-3). Senora Ines only asks Rosaura to serve food, and only Rosaura is allowed in the kitchen, which is where food is usually prepared. This asserts that Rosaura's singular access to the kitchen reveals her true role at the birthday party: a servant.

PRACTICE FOR DEVELOPING ATTRIBUTION PHRASES

Develop an attribution phrase for the following quotations to create a smooth transition in a paragraph from your words to the author's words.

Quotation from an article "The Happiness of Pursuit" by Jeffrey Kluger: "Your shoes are not unique; your TV's not unique. Your vacation to Rome or your family camping trip, however, are much more particularly yours since nobody else in the world did exactly the same things or shared them with exactly the same people you did. And far from wearing out, the memories of the experience grow richer over time" (Kluger 6).

Quotation from an article "Secret Fears of the Super Rich" by Graeme Wood: "the overwhelming concern of the super-rich---mentioned by nearly every parent who participated in the survey--is their children. Many express relief that their kids' education was assured, but are concerned that money might rob them of ambition" (Wood 183).

For help punctuating your MLA
parenthetical citations,
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