

Using a Quote as a Hook in an Essay

A great quote can provide a wonderful hook for an essay. Below are three examples showing how to use direct quotes (word-for-word what someone said or wrote). Follow the punctuation and citation format in the examples below. The italicized parts are directions describing what to discuss after a quote, so that the quote supports your ideas.

Finding quotes: Find a quote that connects to your topic. It can come from a book, poem, essay, speech, etc. *Quotationary*, a classroom resource, is a collection of famous quotes. A good Internet source is <http://www.thinkexist.com>. A good source for author quotes is <http://www.famousquotesandauthors.com>. These resources can be searched using keywords (fear, courage, determination) or by a person (Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson).

Web Source

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face...we must do that which we think we cannot" (Thinkexist.com). *Next, explain what this quote means to you. Connect it to the topic: text-to-text, text-to-self, or text-to-world connection.*

Book Quote (author pg.#)

In *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson*, it is written, "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear" (Twain 12). *Next, explain what this quote means to you. Connect it to the topic: text-to-text or text-to-self or text-to-world connection.*

Dictionary (pg.#)

The *Webster's New World College Dictionary* defines a *barrier* as, "Anything that holds apart, separates, or hinders [racial barriers, barriers to progress]" (118). *Next, explain this definition in your own words. Connect the definition to the topic: text-to-text or text-to-self or text-to-world connection.*