# Building a "Citation Sandwich:" Integrating Quotes

A good way to work somebody else's ideas into your writing is to make a *citation sandwich* - a three part package that:

1). **introduces** the author you're referring to and **summarizes** their ideas (or overall text) **in your own words**,

2). then **paraphrases** and/or **directly quotes** the author,

3). followed by **your explanation of what the quote means** and **how it connects to your point** or discussion.
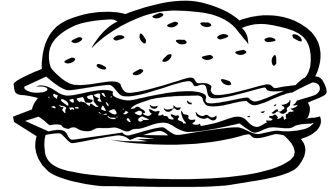

The Move
When you bring in a quote from an outside source, imagine that your readers don't know the original text. If you just drop in a quote and move on, readers will have trouble understanding where that quote is from and what it means.

As a writer, it's important for you to make that quote (or paraphrase) meaningful and useful by introducing the text to your reader *before* the quote. This is sort of teaching the text to your reader, briefly and accurately (in your own words), so they don't have to read the source themselves. After you quote (don't forget the citation!), be sure to explain that quote to your reader in your own words. Keep going to answer "so what?" - this is the analysis, development, or connection you're making to that quote. This third step is a critical component because it builds connection between the source you are using and what *you* want to say.

Constructing a Citation Sandwich
Here's what these moves might look like using George Lakoff's 2008 book *The Political Mind*:
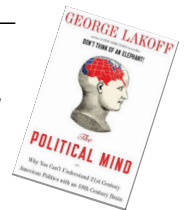
I. Introduce the text to your reader.
Example:
In his 2008 book, *The Political Mind*, George Lakoff explores…
(summarize the text in your own words - teach it to your reader)

> Give some thought to the verb you use: does he *argue*, *assert*, *claim*, *suggest*, *complicate, question, call for*, etc.

II. Offer a quotation (as evidence) to help explain the idea you just introduced to your reader.
Example:
According to Lakoff, "_____" (27).

> Integrate the quote into your own sentence with a *signal phrase*. Don't forget the citation.

III. Explain the quotation to your reader.

Examples:

In making this comment, Lakoff argues that_____.

Lakoff's theory is_____.

In other words, Lakoff's point is _____.

The essence of Lakoff's argument is that _____.

Use the quote to develop your analysis and discussion.

Examples:

Lakoff's theory is interesting because _____.

Following this idea, Lakoff's argument can be applied to _____.

The larger implications of Lakoff's thinking here is _____.

After explaining the quote in your own words (the basic move for the lead out), keep going. These are possible next steps:

- State the relevance the quote has for your claim to illustrate what you are talking about (**illustrating**)

- Explain how the quote supports your claims (**authorizing**)

- Show how the quote/idea/concept helps to illuminate something (**borrowing**)

- Show how this quote/idea/concept might be interpreted differently (**extending**)

- Show the limitations of this quote/idea, what it ignores or hides, and how it might be revised (**countering**)

For more strategies on source integration, check out Kyle Stedman's essay, "Annoying Ways People Use Sources," on writingspaces.org.

Writing at GCC
Key Rhetorical Moves