

Structure of an Essay:



Embedding quotes

- Guidelines for Quotes:
 - Cannot stand alone as a sentence.
 - Should not be back-to-back (must interpret evidence and explain after each quote).
 - Should not begin or end a paragraph (they are support for statements made and need commentary after).
 - Must be written exactly as they appear (* One exception: To change the verb form, place the changed verb in [brackets]. This indicates an altered quote.).
 - Should be worked right into your writing.
 - Do not always need to be full sentences / can be phrases (use ellipses...to indicate left our part).
 - Should not be dropped into writing suddenly.

Embedding quotes

- All quotes should have signal phrases (lead-ins).

These serve as the introduction to the quote and should provide the context needed to interpret the quote.

You MUST:

- 1) lead-in to quote
- 2) cite the author and page number (Last name page number)
- 3) give commentary (*Do not depend on the quote to make the point for you*)

Types of Lead-ins

1. The “somebody said” lead-in:

Ex. After he hears of Kemmerich’s death, Paul comments, “I become faint, all at once I cannot do any more. I won’t revile any more, it is senseless” (Remarque 32).

2. The “blended” lead-in:

Some of the quoted material is left out . What is retained is blended right into the sentence.

Ex. Paul becomes disillusioned early on by the war and views it as “senseless” (32).

3. The “sentence” lead-in:

This lead-in is followed by a colon.

Ex. Paul evidently suffers from despair after the death of his fellow soldier: “it is senseless” (32).

Common Lead-in Verbs

- Argues, asserts, believes, claims, comments, declares, illustrates, notes, observes, reasons, reports, suggests, thinks, writes.

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An explicit reference is made to the image of a stone while Paul and his fellow soldiers are in the trenches. While describing the front-line and the constant barrage of fire, Paul states, “the front-line days...sink down in us like a stone” (138). A few pages later Paul makes another reference to the war like a stone that “sink[s] down” (140). The recurring reference to the stone, while he is in the trenches, suggests that Paul’s experiences on the front-line is weighing down the troops. Paul feels that the horrors of trench warfare due to the weapons and violence of war is taking away their hopes for the future and is contributing to a lack of purpose in the war. At the end of the section with this stone imagery, Paul explains the soldier’s mentality: “we cannot hold out much longer; our humor becomes more bitter every month” (140). Like a person carrying a great weight (or stone), the mounting pressure of trench warfare is taking its toll on the troops. The crushing effects of the stone occur later when Paul describes the tanks on the frontline.