

## Embedding Textual Evidence and In-Text Citations Quick Guide

- When including Textual Evidence into your own writing, IT MUST MUST MUST be connected to your own sentence. You cannot just abandoned a quote and leave it alone to die. Your words must BLEND and CONNECT with the other text.
- The pattern of textual evidence is A.C.E. The beginning of the sentence ANSWERS or ADRESSESSES THE PROMPT then leads into the text CITATION, and finally, EXPLAINS the significance of the citation, focusing on the prompt.

*Cherry demonstrates open-mindedness in her conversation with Pony when she agrees to go with him to the concession stand and, after hearing about what happened to Johnny, insists, “Not all of us are like that.” (Hinton 34). This observation leads to an open discussion about the commonalities in the Socs and greasers, a first hint at Hinton’s overall theme of acceptance.*

### • **Non-dialogue T.E.**

#### **It is bare bones:**

- **NO comma before the start of the TE**
- **two quotation marks around TE**
- **parentheses around the citation info (author page number)**
- **period on the OUTSIDE of the parentheses ending the ENTIRE sentence**

*Example: Katniss demonstrates bravery when she realizes “it’s clear that I must get to the table next. Anyone who beats me to it will easily scoop up my pack and be gone. Without hesitation, I sprint for the table. I can sense the emergence of danger before I see it” (Collins 283).*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dialogue T.E.</b></li></ul>
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### It's a PUNCTUATION PARTY!:

- Before a **dialogue** quote: place a **comma**.
- Open the T.E. with **two regular quotation marks**.
- Open the Dialogue with a **SINGULAR quotation mark** (if the dialogue is first in the T.E., it looks like three quotation marks in a row).
- Finish the dialogue with punctuation: If it's not a question or exclamation mark, use a **COMMA! NEVER A PERIOD!**
- Close the dialogue with a **SINGLE quotation mark**.
- Close the T.E. with **two quotation marks**.
- Put **parentheses** for the citation.
- Put a **PERIOD** at the end of the ENTIRE sentence outside the parentheses.

#### **All Dialogue T.E.**

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**Example:** Katniss displays love for Rue when Katniss promises, “I’m going to. Going to win for the both of us now.” (233). Rue’s death is a turning point in Katniss’s determination, which had been waning in her depression.

#### **Mix of both non-dialogue T.E. + dialogue T.E.**

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**Example:** Harry Bittering demonstrates the loss of his zest for building when he “stood, very dark now, very golden-eyed, upon the slope of his villa... ‘Yes, but we’re not going,’ he said quietly. ‘There’s nothing there any more.’” (Bradbury 489).

- **Replacing and/or Removing T.E. within a QUOTE**

- **[Brackets]** indicate a **change to the original text**- use them to change capitalization, verb tense, etc. so that the sentence maintains its grammatical integrity.
- **Ellipses (...)** indicate **text has been removed**. They are only used **in the middle** of the quote, never the start or end.

Example: Simon is considerate because when “**sitting** between the twins and Piggy, ... **[he]** shoved his piece of meat over the rocks to Piggy, who grabbed it” (Golding 74). Jack had denied Piggy meat, but Simon sacrificed his piece despite any harm that might have resulted from Jack.

- **Additional Rules and Guidelines**

- Always attach the quote to a character or to the author. Do not write that the **text says**.
- Textual evidence is targeted and considered, meaning narrowed to fit your needs. Avoid lengthy text; rather, embed only the golden nuggets. TEXT EVIDENCE SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN A SENTENCE OR TWO. Embed with commentary. Any text longer than pieces of one-two sentences is formatted block-style. Long pieces of poetry follow this rule as well.
- Once the author’s name has been mentioned once, only use the page numbers in citations after, unless multiple authors are being cited.
- Avoid 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person in analysis. Do not write *I think Hinton’s message is ...* or *Hinton is alluding to you to ....* Revise taking out the *I* and the *you*.

## ESSAY FRAME “CATCHY TITLE”

### Introduction:

1. Hook/Lead A one-sentence intro into topic or theme or conflict
2. Author / Title
3. A short summary
4. Thesis

### Paragraph 2: First Body Paragraph A.C.E. **A**ddress the thesis **C**ite textual evidence **E**xplain back to thesis

1. Topic sentence (what this paragraph will discuss, how it will prove your thesis)
2. Context for the quote  
Who says it?  
What’s happening in the text when they say it?
3. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)
4. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?  
REPEAT WITH MORE T.E. ON SAME TOPIC SENTENCE IF NEEDED
5. Closing sentence (wrap up the paragraph to effectively transition to the next paragraph)

### Paragraph 3: First Body Paragraph A.C.E.

1. TRANSITION into Topic sentence (what this paragraph will discuss, how it will prove your thesis)
2. Context for the quote  
Who says it?  
What’s happening in the text when they say it?
3. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)
4. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?  
REPEAT WITH MORE T.E. ON SAME TOPIC SENTENCE IF NEEDED
5. Closing sentence (wrap up the paragraph to effectively transition to the next paragraph)

### Paragraph 4: First Body Paragraph A.C.E.

1. TRANSITION into Topic sentence (what this paragraph will discuss, how it will prove your thesis)
2. Context for the quote  
Who says it?  
What’s happening in the text when they say it?
3. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)
4. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?  
REPEAT WITH MORE T.E. ON SAME TOPIC SENTENCE IF NEEDED
5. Closing sentence (wrap up the paragraph to effectively transition to the next paragraph)

### Conclusion

(You do not necessarily have to follow this order, but include the following):

1. Summarize your argument/thesis/claim/prompt.
2. Extend the argument.
3. Show why the text is important.

REMEMBER: \*No first or second person in analysis—no *I think* or *You should*, essays are different from stories. Be sure to write about the correct genre.

2. An essay is different from a story. 3. When writing about the author, write that he/she believes, writes, explains, but not *the text states* or *she talks*.