

Stitching

Stitching: The act of smoothly semantically or logically tying together the parts of a paragraph or an argument *using transition words or phrases* that connect how ideas, assertion claims, cited evidence, analysis and explanation, subsequent paragraphs or sections of an essay follow from previous ones. Stitching can also *reiterate* ideas, keyterms, or words or phrases previously mentioned to both maintain focused connections as well as show an argument's development and progression (its overall trajectory). There is a particular kind of Stitching called *Orienting* that provides details such as dates, names, titles, places, etc. readers may not know, but need to know to feel better situated with the sources and ideas you're working with (we need to know, for example, that Galileo was an early enlightenment philosopher at the end of the Italian Renaissance. We need to know that the religious authority was the Roman Catholic Church) —such information better orientates the reader. Use **Stitching** that orients to introduce or identify people, new terminology or keyterms, sources, or evidence: time (chronology, history), space (location, place), text (title, describe source or genre), author (professional credentials), etc.

Quotation Weaving

A writing strategy that introduces and weaves together cited material (THEY SAY) & a writer's ideas about it (I SAY)

- Make a Stitching Transition to introduce, provide context, or make a connection between your I Say claim or synthesis sentence and the quotation you want to cite.
- Introduce the quotation with a lead in: a few words to imbed the quotation into your sentence (G&B templates for THEY SAY can work well as lead-ins)
- Do not limit your source authors *only* to an MLA parenthetical citation; to better enter into a conversation with readings via your interpretation or use of their ideas (They Say) to support your ideas (I SAY), mention the author in the actual texts you cite paragraph. For example, In "The Allegory of the Cave," the ancient Greek philosopher Plato suggests...
- Use ellipses (...) to show that you have eliminated words, phrases, sentences, or sections from a longer piece of text—the ellipses show that you have left out what is inessential.
- A quotation should never be a stand-alone sentence (aka "orphan quote"); so, give your quotation "parents." A cited quotation should be imbedded in your sentence that maintains grammatical and mechanical correctness. You can change tense or add words to quotations to make them fit grammatically or syntactically: i.e. if the quote you want to cite is "her voice was fully of money" you can change it to "[Daisy's] voice was full of money" (Fitzgerald 127).
- *A quotation is not self-explanatory; it cannot convey or explain to a reader why you have chosen it, what you think it means, why you think it is significant, or how it supports your I SAY Assertion. Therefore: always explain the quotations you cite!*
- Avoid beginning a sentence with a quotation—it will lack context, an author, a source, and won't connect well to or flow nicely from the sentence/ideas that preceded it.
- Avoid including several quotations in a row without either analyzing them OR using Stitching Transitions to connect their ideas.