The Art of Quoting
Beginning Composition
a Focus on Style

Why do writers use quotations in their pieces?

- Quotes add a lot of credibility to your claims (functioning as evidence)
- They also ensure that you are portraying the source in a fair and accurate way
However, quotations do not explain themselves.

What function does this envelope have in a court case?

What function does the guy have?
Think of this as making a “quotation sandwich”

Top layer:
Background

Middle layer:
Quote

Next layer:
With Analysis

Bottom layer:
With Commentary
Margaret Donaldson, a well-known researcher of children and writer about their development, argues that we all have a “fundamental urge to be effective, competent, and independent.”

In John Holt’s view, “Even quite kindly schools are inhibited and corrupted by the knowledge of children and teachers alike that they are ‘performing’ for the judgment and approval of others.”
The middle layer—meat/cheese/lettuce/tomato (details and examples):

Then put the quote/statistic/anecdote/paraphrase/evidence in the middle.
In other words, Donaldson believes that it is a natural human desire to acquire new skills and be autonomous. She is ultimately calling into question our traditional ways of identifying “success” and “failure.”

Holt is insisting that because schools must be overseen by authorities, they will become negative places. Because power corrupts individuals, power corrupts institutions.
Here’s an example of a solid conclusion sentence:

In 1967 the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. stated in a speech, “A time comes when silence is betrayal.” Through this statement, King points out how important it is for everyone in society to protect and defend each other, because ignoring people who need help is just as bad as hurting them directly.

**Written by 2 freshmen in a Beginning Comp. class at Vista del Lago.**
Effective Verbs for Introducing Summaries and Quotations:

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<th>Questioning or disagreeing:</th>
<th>Expressing agreement:</th>
<th>Making recommendations</th>
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With partners, properly frame these quotations. Pick two famous quotes and make a “quotation sandwich” for them. Put both partners’ names on your paper!

1. “I have not failed, I’ve just found 10,000 ways that don’t work.” (Thomas Edison, inventor)
2. “Courage is being scared to death- and saddling up anyway.” (John Wayne, actor)
3. “If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything.” (Mark Twain, writer)
4. “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” (Eleanor Roosevelt, former First Lady)
5. “Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.” (Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom)
6. “Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain’t goin’ away.” (Elvis Presley, rock legend)