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## Integrating Quotes MLA

There are three components for integrating quotes in MLA:

**The First Component** is the introduction of the quotation. This includes the author's introductory sentence such as:

*In his article, "The Importance of Writing Badly," Bruce Ballenger describes his take on the beginnings of the writing process.*

The quotation introduction could follow a number of templates like the following:

X states, " \_\_\_\_\_ "  
According to X, " \_\_\_\_\_ "  
X writes, " \_\_\_\_\_ "  
In her/his book, \_\_\_\_\_, X maintains that " \_\_\_\_\_ "

Or something else that introduces the author and/or title before the quote is used.

**The Second Component** is the actual quotation being used.

**The Third Component** is what the writer gathers from the quotation.

This is the part most writers forget about. This is the analysis. The third component is the explanation of why the quote is important to your argument. This is crucial, as it tells the reader how your research fits into your main claim, idea, and/ or thesis.

Possible templates for the third component look like the following:

Basically, X is saying \_\_\_\_\_.  
In other words, X believes \_\_\_\_\_.  
X is insisting that \_\_\_\_\_.  
The essence of X's argument is that \_\_\_\_\_.

**Example Paragraph:** (The various components are in Italics)

Not every single piece of writing may be perfect or have a purpose or function. But, sometimes those pieces may lead to a bigger, better piece of writing. *In his essay, "The Importance of Writing Badly," Bruce Ballenger says, "Giving myself permission to write badly makes it much more likely that I will write what I don't expect to write, and that from those surprises will come some of my best writing" (1). I agree with Ballenger, who basically says it usually takes at least a couple of rough drafts before he feels comfortable and confident in his writing. I "write badly" in rough drafts because I don't pay close attention to conventions or sentence structure. I just try to get the main ideas and the beginning of a body written down in a rough draft. Then I go back and revise the rough drafts to polish off the writing. All of those rough drafts add together to make one final, hopefully good, piece of writing.*

Source:

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Berkenstein. *They Say, I Say*. New York, Norton: 2006. Print.