

Prof. Bishop's Thesis and Quotation Cheat Sheet*

*Adapted from Gerald Graff's and Cathy Birkenstein's *They Say/I Say*, Norton Press, 2006

In the following template "sentences," "X" represents the text we are studying, the creator of the text we are studying, or an aspect of the text which you have chosen to focus upon.

POSSIBLE THESIS TEMPLATES

Although "X" does not say so directly or literally, "X" implies that _____; several plot elements, such as _____ demonstrate this within the text.

(Author's name), in (his or her) ____ (type of text: short story, poem, essay, film ,etc.), ____ (name of the text) _____, suggests that _____.

One implication of X's exploration of _____ reveals _____.

CAPTURING AUTHORIAL ACTION

(Note the use of active voice here; work in an "awesome verb")

X acknowledges that _____.

X agrees that _____.

X argues that _____.

X denies that _____.

X claims that _____.

X concedes that _____.

X demonstrates that _____.

X celebrates the fact that _____.

X emphasizes that_____.

X insists that_____.

X observes that_____.

X questions the claim that_____.

X reminds us that_____.

X suggests that_____.

X (choose your own verb here) that_____.

INTRODUCING QUOTES WITH MLA FORMAT AND PARENTHETICAL CITATION

X states, “_____” (source pg. #).

As the prominent literary critic _____ puts it, “_____” (source pg. #).

According to X, “_____” (source pg.).

In (his or her) book, _____, X maintains that “_____” (source page #).

Writing in the journal (*Insert journal title here*), X asserts that “_____” (source pg. #).

In X’s view, “_____” (source pg. #).

X agrees with X’s view when she writes, “_____” (source pg. #).

X complicates matters further when he writes, “_____” (source pg. #).

(Block Format Example) It is evident in the following passage that X was asserting

_____:

_____. (source pg. #)

EXPLAINING QUOTATIONS

Basically, X is saying _____.

In other words, X believes _____.

In making this comment, X argues that _____.

X is insisting that _____.

X's point exemplifies _____.

The essence of X's argument postulates that _____.

X, in (his or her) text, ___name of text___, demonstrates _____.

ESTABLISHING WHY YOUR CLAIMS MATTER

(Note that active verbs are italicized and key words are underlined)

X *matters* because _____.

Ultimately, what is at stake here for this author *remains* _____.

These findings *reveal* important consequences for the broader domain of _____.

The discussion of X *contributes* to the ongoing discussion of texts and literature because _____.

An analysis of X *reveals* _____, which is important when considering the overall discussion of _____ in our text.

The significance of _____ in the text obviously *becomes* paramount because _____.

The text, X, *dramatizes* _____ in culture because _____.

ADDING METACOMMENTARY

In other words,_____.

Essentially, the argument postulates_____.

To put it another way_____.

In short,_____.

Incidentally, _____.

The second stanza of the text obviously explores_____.