

Using Textual Evidence in your Writing



Textual Evidence

When including textual evidence into your own writing, IT MUST MUST MUST be connected to your own sentence. You cannot just abandon 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 **ADDRESSESSES** THE PROMPT then leads into the text **CITATION**, and finally, **EXPLAINS** the significance of the citation, focusing on the prompt.



Example

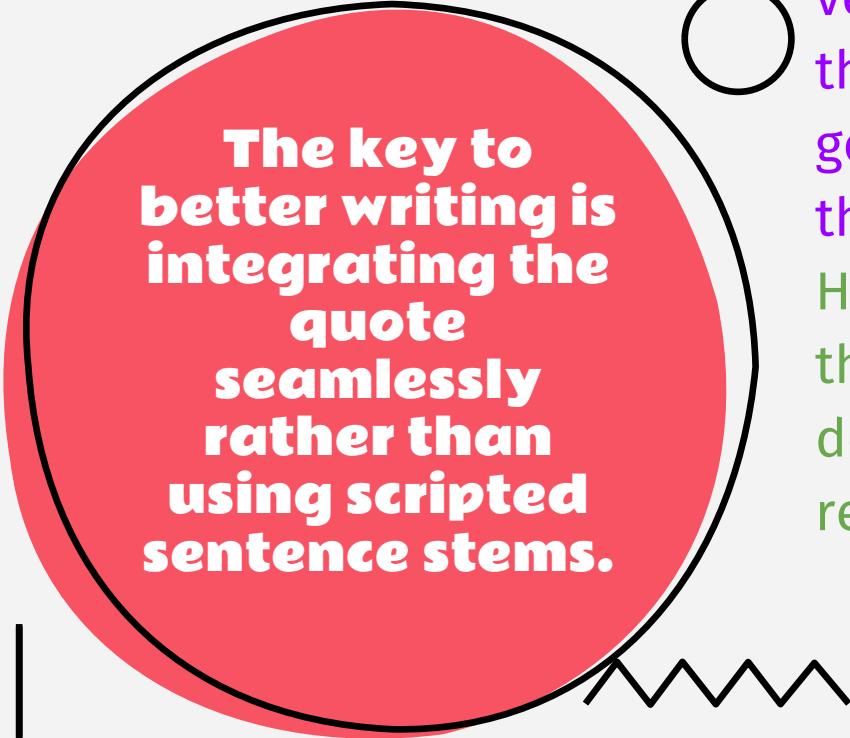
Katniss demonstrates bravery when she realizes “it’s clear that I must get to the table next. Anyone who beats me to it will easily scoop up my pack and be gone. Without hesitation, I sprint for the table. I can sense the emergence of danger before I see it” (Collins 283). Katniss understands the drive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

A

C

E

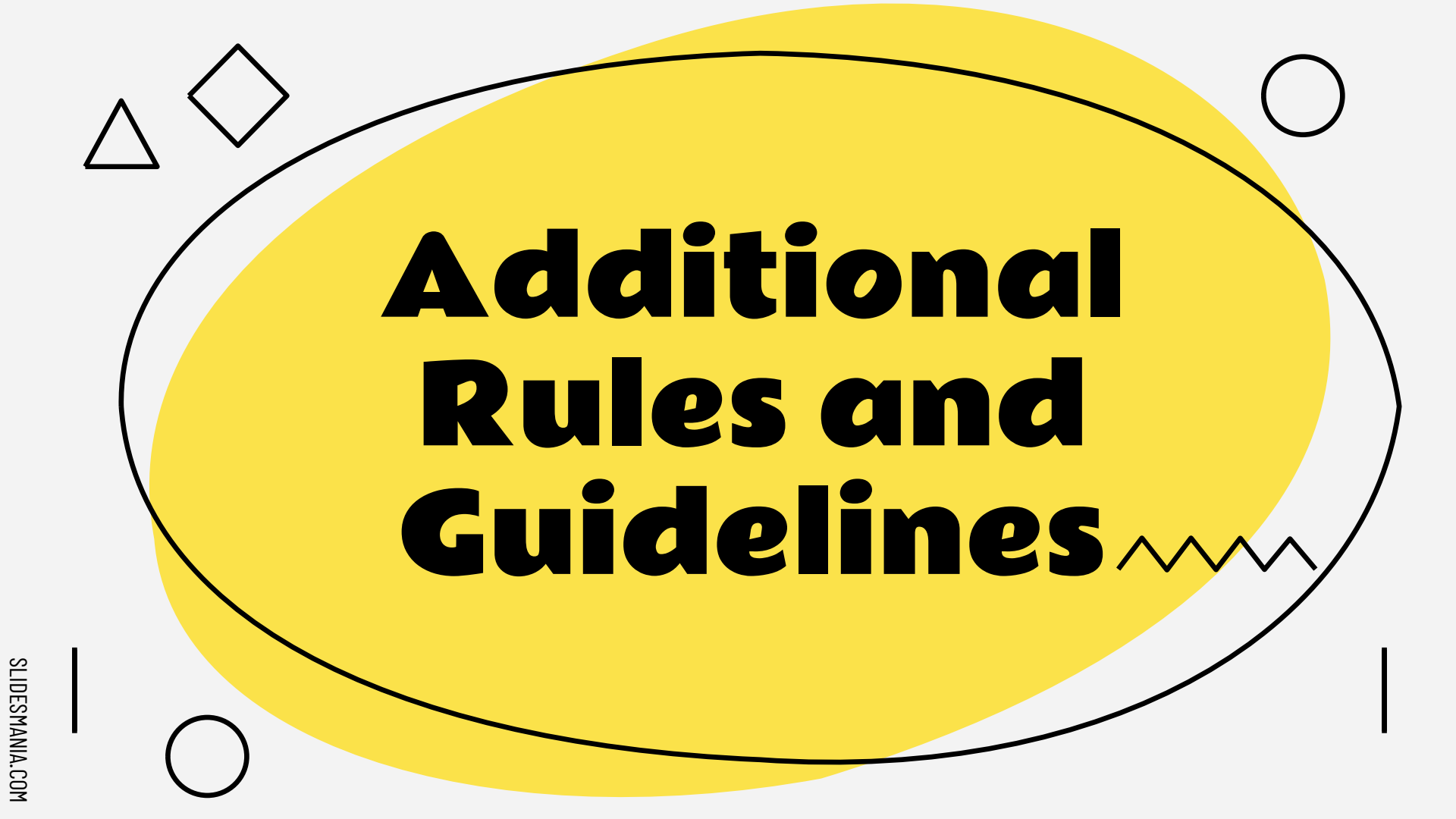
Example 2



The key to better writing is integrating the quote seamlessly rather than using scripted sentence stems.

Henry 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).

Henry’s disappointment is obvious through his body language. Bradbury’s development of his character helps the reader embrace Henry’s defeat.



Additional Rules and Guidelines

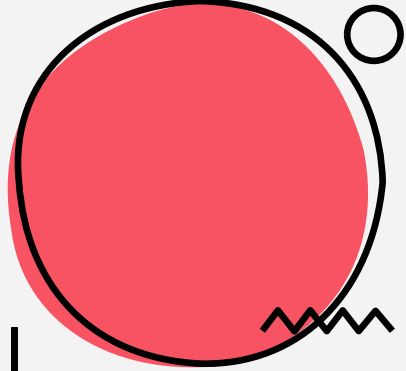


Rules to Remember

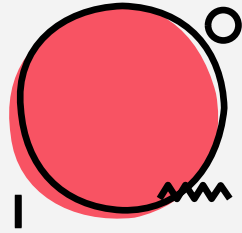
- Always attach the quote to a **character** or to the **author**. Do not write that **the text says**.
- Textual evidence is targeted and considered, the meaning narrowed to fit your needs. Avoid lengthy text; rather, embed only the golden nuggets. TEXT EVIDENCE SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN A SENTENCE OR TWO. Embed with commentary. Any text longer than pieces of one-two sentences is formatted block style.
- Once the author's name has been mentioned once, only use the page numbers in citations after, unless multiple authors are being cited.
- Avoid FIRST and SECOND 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.



**So, how can you
shorten a quote?**



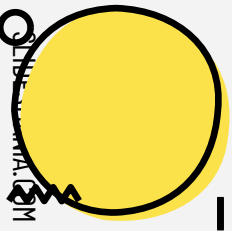
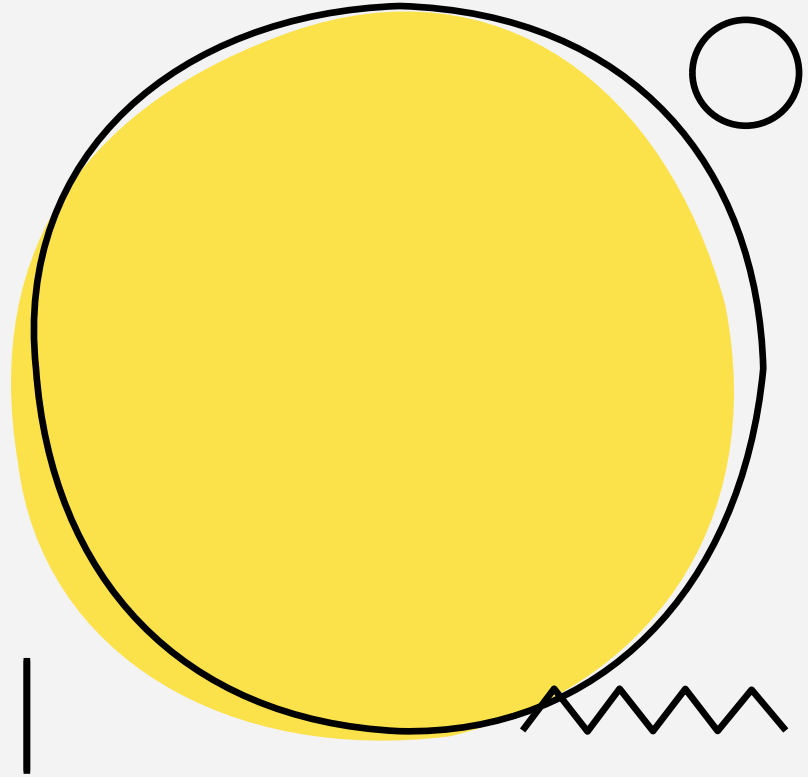
Replace or Remove Words or Phrases



- [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:

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





To Recap:

Use **A.C.E.** in your Writing

- **A**nswer or address the thesis
- **C**ite textual evidence
- **E**xplain how your evidence supports your thesis

**Another
way to
look at
it...**

**Introduce
the
evidence**

Citing TEXTUAL EVIDENCE!

What does
your
SOURCE say?

Why does
this matter?

This text
says...

SOURCE
outlines...
claims...
argues that...

This
proves...
supports...

This is
important
because...

Based on
SOURCE...

SOURCE
explains...
describes...
states...

This
is the opposite
...

This is
the same
as...

One point
made in
SOURCE is...

According
to **SOURCE**
...

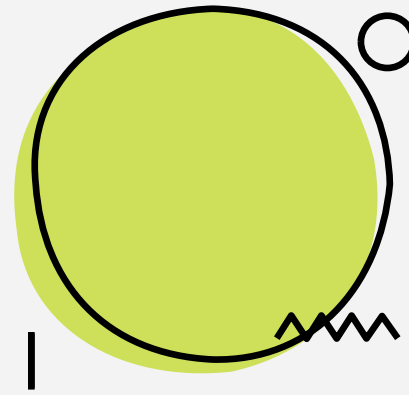
This
confirms...

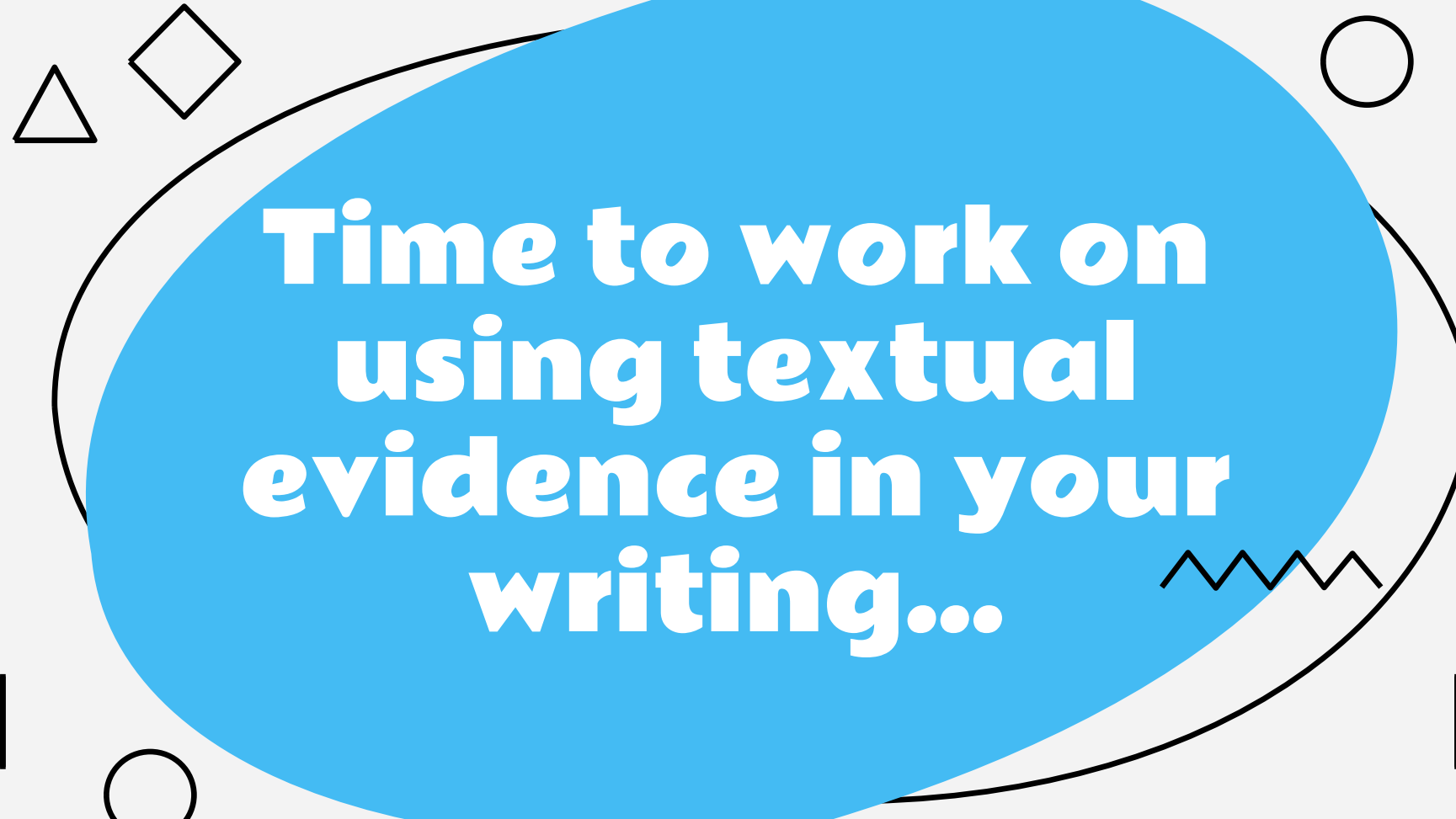
This
information
shows...

**Explain
the
evidence**

Additional Tips for your Writing

1. Avoid first or second person in analysis—no “*I think*” or “*You should*”, essays are different from stories. Be sure your writing uses the correct voice.
2. An essay is different from a story it is more formal. Make sure you maintain a formal tone.
3. When writing about the author, write that he/she believes, writes, explains, but **not *the text states* or *she talks***.





**Time to work on
using textual
evidence in your
writing...**