

Textual Engagement & In-Text Citation

You can adapt these four steps of textual engagement for different kinds of sources- primary texts, secondary texts, film clips, news articles, lectures, etc. Try them out:

1. **Context:** introduce the text you're working with, or the specific context of what this author is talking about

In her book chapter "Conversation," bell hooks...

2. **Quote:** write out the quote you have selected. Cite the source at the end of the sentence.

In her book chapter "Conversation," bell hooks **argues that "genuine conversation is about the sharing of power and knowledge; it is fundamentally a cooperative enterprise" (hooks 45).**

3. **Translate/Interpret:** re-write author's meaning in your own words- what does this quote mean to you?

In her book chapter "Conversation," bell hooks argues that "genuine conversation is about the sharing of power and knowledge; it is fundamentally a cooperative enterprise" (hooks 45).

Whereas large lectures reinforce the authority of a professor's knowledge over his or her students, a classroom discussion makes room for students to make contributions on a more equal basis with their professor.

4. **Reflection:** Explain how this quote or piece of textual evidence relates back to the purpose of your paper and your original idea.

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Whereas large lectures reinforce the authority of a professor's knowledge over his or her students, a classroom discussion makes room for students to make contributions on a more equal basis with their professor. **However, facilitating such a conversation may not come easily to professors without formal pedagogy training.**

hooks, bell. "Conversation." *Teaching Critical Thinking*. New: Routledge, 2007. 43-47. Print.

Why this works:

- This process will help you clearly define where the author's idea ends and your voice begins, and therefore you will...
- Avoid plagiarism!
- The process will help you check whether you are choosing quotations and evidence carefully. If you cannot or do not want to spend effort on translating and reflecting the quotation, perhaps you haven't chosen the right moment in the text as evidence.

In-Text Citation:

There are multiple formats for in-text citation, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and they vary by discipline. Regardless of the specific format, you must be citing the sources- whether you are stating a general idea from a text, paraphrasing, or quoting directly.