

I-C-E



INTRODUCE, CITE, AND EXPLAIN

Your Evidence*

Body paragraphs in academic essays contain evidence that supports debatable main ideas that appear in topic sentences. Responsible writers must be sure to introduce, cite, and explain any quotes or phrases used as evidence.

Part 1. INTRODUCE

Introduce all your quotes with some sort of introductory phrase. Some examples include:

- *According to Mike Smith, an English professor at Greatness University*, “you should use the author’s first and last name when you cite that author for the first time in your paper” (1).
- *As Smith explains*, “students can introduce your quotes with a number of different phrases” (1).
- *Smith suggests that* “if the introduction to your quote is not a dependent clause, it does not need to be followed by a comma” (1).
- *Smith observes the following in his article*: “When you use a colon to introduce a quote, you need a complete sentence preceding the colon” (1).

Part 2. CITE

Provide appropriate parenthetical (also called in-text) citations for all quotes and paraphrases used from a source (but not summaries). Check the appropriate style guidelines for MLA, APA, Chicago, Turabian, etc. Yet, here are two guidelines to follow for appropriately citing a source, no matter which style is used:

- If the **AUTHOR’S NAME IS USED in the introductory phrase**, that name does not need to be repeated in the parenthetical portion of the citation. SEE ALL OF THE CITATION EXAMPLES GIVEN IN PART 1.
- If the **AUTHOR’S NAME IS NOT USED in the introductory phrase**, then IT MUST be included in the parenthetical portion of the citation.

Example: Some professors at Greatness University take points off of a final paper if students forget to cite quotes and paraphrases (Smith 2).

- **PLEASE NOTE!** The parenthetical reference (Smith 2) is a part of the sentence in which the quote or paraphrase was made, and the period comes AFTER the reference!

Part 3. EXPLAIN

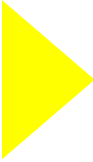
Make sure to explain why you used the quote, paraphrase, or concept in your essay. You must let your reader know how that author’s quote or concept ties in and supports the point you are making in that part of your essay. Without an explanation, readers are left to their own interpretations which may greatly differ from yours, thereby weakening or destroying your point.

*(Check out the academic essay excerpt on the next page
that incorporates the ICE method)*


Trigger Warnings on College Campuses**

A trigger warning is a short and easy way to caution the reader or viewer about the more difficult aspects of a written or visual text, much like brief notices that appear on television before a show with explicit violence or sex. Trigger warnings come into recent, regular use online, especially on feminist blogs and in forums. When survivors of sexual assault or other traumas would share their experiences, they would often post a warning to let readers know in advance of any explicit or upsetting content.


In a 2015 article in *The Atlantic*, Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt dismiss trigger warnings as unnecessary and even harmful in college courses by arguing that “classroom discussions are safe places to be exposed to incidental reminders of trauma” because “a discussion of violence is unlikely to be followed by an act of violence” (147). While it’s true that actual violence is thankfully rare in the classroom, the authors ignore the effects of exposure to such triggers on individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.



Note how the **introductory phrase** provides sufficient information about the authors who are to be quoted: their names, who they write for, and the year of publication.



Now the **actual quote is cited** with only the page number in parentheses because the authors’ names were used in the introductory phrase. **Note also that** the citation is still a part of the sentence as seen by the period following the parenthetical reference.



The **explanation** provided shows that the writer of the essay **disagrees** with the authors’ quoted reasoning. If no explanation had followed, readers might have believed that the essay writer did not believe in trigger warnings.

* Handout was adapted from an online handout by Dr. Lilyana M. Naydan https://lsa.umich.edu/content/dam/sweetland-assets/sweetland-documents/WritingGuides/ICE_IntroduceCiteAndExplainYourEvidence.pdf

** Palmquist, Mike and Barbara Wallraff. *In Conversation: A Writer’s Guidebook*. Bedford/St. Martins, 2018, 370-1.