

Quotation Integration – Practice Exercise

Textual references (quotes or paraphrases) help you do these things for your own writing:

- support your ideas
- show that other people agree with you
- clarify where you got an idea
- permit us to hear other voices for comparison
- provide examples of what you are trying to explain

Quotes always act as *supporting details* or *examples* for your own ideas. Successfully **integrating** a quote into a paragraph means creating an effective **lead-in** that adequately addresses these 3 questions for the reader:

1. **Where** the quote comes from in the story
2. **Who** is speaking and **to whom** s/he is speaking
3. **What** the quote is about

Signal words you can use to introduce or “lead in” to a quote: (any of these may be followed with the word “**that**”)

claims	suggests	writes	observes	says	recalls
describes	remembers	believes	indicates	explains	asserts

(This paragraph comes early in the first chapter of Elie Wiesel’s Holocaust memoir Night when the narrator (Elie) is recalling a story told to him by one of the religious leaders in his village. The religious leader (Moishe) described to Elie an event he had witnessed while being deported out of Romania and into Poland by the German police (Gestapo) during the Holocaust.)

Moishe told me what had happened to him and his companions. The train with the deportees had crossed the Hungarian border and, once in Polish territory, had been taken over by the Gestapo. The train had stopped. The Jews were ordered to get off and onto waiting trucks. The trucks headed toward a forest. There everybody was ordered to get out. They were forced to dig huge trenches. When they finished their work, the men from the Gestapo began theirs. **With passion or haste, they shot their prisoners, who were forced to approach the trench one by one and offer their necks. Infants were tossed into the air and used as targets for the machine guns.** This took place in the Galician forest, near Kolomay.

Early on in his memoir of the Holocaust, **Wiesel writes a passage** that effectively **portrays the horror he experienced early on in the war**. The passage works well because it’s so detailed and vivid, yet also shocking. Readers are able to get a clear sense of what it was like to experience the horrors of war as the author did. **He** writes this **as he describes how** the Gestapo soldiers executed some of the prisoners **they were holding**: **“With passion or haste, they shot their prisoners, who were forced to approach the trench one by one and offer their necks. Infants were tossed into the air and used as targets for the machine guns” (30).**