

## Framing Quotes

Framing quotes is a method of integrating your quotes into your essay fluidly and with enough context so the reader understands their purpose in your paper. The “frame” you are placing around your quotes includes background information before the quote and analysis after the quote, as explained in steps 1-3 (below).

1. **Introduce** – *Who, Where, What* (give the writer/speaker and any necessary context – maybe offer a hint as to the quotes’ purpose). Giving the full name of the author is a **MUST** the *FIRST* time you reference a source, after that you refer to him/her by last name only:

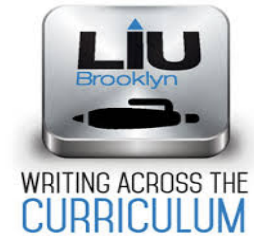
WRONG: The essay we read in class is about eating lobster.

RIGHT (1<sup>st</sup> time): In **David Foster Wallace’s** essay “**Consider the Lobster**”, he asks his readers to think about whether it is morally right to eat lobster.

RIGHT (all subsequent references): **Wallace** asks his readers’ a series of questions to get them to think about the morality of eating animals.

2. **“Quote”** – with appropriate grammatical context (must function as a sentence)

**Ex.** Wallace writes, “So then here is a question that’s all but unavoidable at the World’s Largest Lobster Cooker, and may arise in kitchens across the US: Is it all right to boil a sentient creature alive just for our gustatory pleasure? A related set of concerns: Is the previous question irksomely PC or sentimental? What does “all right” even mean in this context? Is the whole thing just a matter of personal choice?” (Wallace 243).



3. **Explain/Unpack/Signify** - This is where you indicate *WHY* you have just included the quote: What purpose does it serve? What point does it make? Don't assume the reader will know why you've used the quote.

**Exercise:** Write a paragraph in which you frame and cite the above quotation. Obviously you can't discuss its significance to a whole paper (as you will with the quotes in your actual papers), but you can introduce the quote (1) and explain (3) what the quote is saying and how it relates to Wallace's essay as a whole.