

## Writing With and About Texts

In college writing, we not only write about texts all of the time, but it is presumed that everyone KNOWS HOW to write about texts. Do you? If so, what do you know?

Here are some guidelines:

- Always provide context when you respond to an assignment or when you write about a text.
- Always include the name of the author and the title of the essay.
- Always follow MLA guidelines when referencing authors and titles.
- In most cases, write in the present tense when writing ABOUT THE TEXT.
- Always keep in mind the Introduce (and Integrate)/Cite/Explain ( ICE) Rule:
- Always introduce quotes.
- Always seamlessly integrate quotes into your sentence or, with longer quotes, introduce with a signal phrase and colon.
- Always explain quotes.
- Always use appropriate verbs to introduce your quotations, summaries, and paraphrases: writes, explains, believes, concurs, admits, agrees, argues, asserts, claims, compares, confirms, contends, declares, denies, emphasizes, insists, notes, observes, points out, reasons, refutes, rejects, reports, responds, suggests, thinks.  
\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT ABSENT FROM THIS LIST IS THE VERB “SAYS”!!!!!!

[Writing a Response](#)

[Planning Sheet for a Response Essay](#)

Adapted from *What Is Writing?: An Introduction to Writing as an Act and Medium of Communication* (2015).



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