Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sophomore English

**HOW TO: Find Good Quotes and Analyze Deeply**

**Why use quotations?** Quotations are used as “evidence” to prove your essay’s argument. Just as a lawyer needs and uses evidence to support his or her argument to the court, you need quotations to support your argument. Good quoteswill strengthen your own argument**.**

**How do you find “good” quotes?** You can’t begin to analyze deeply if there isn’t any depth or significance to your quote. So how do you identify quotes with depth? Look for quotations that do any or all of the following:

* Give a strong, specific example that SUPPORTS YOUR ARGUMENT
* Have some depth and meaning to it (not just plot) – look for passages that have some complexity to them and thus require analysis.
* Include literary devices (see step two) –if required.

\*You will have an easier time selecting the best quotations if you begin early by annotating the text as you read. Spend time on this step – it is important and will make the steps that follow much easier.

**STEP 2: Analyze your quotes.** Below are some questions to help you analyze your quotes deeply.

* Answer the question: How does this quote prove my argument?
* Don’t simply restate WHAT happens in the passage (that should be clear) – focus on WHY what happens is important. Why is this information so significant to the text as a whole?
* Keep pushing the question: WHY? (or How? When? Where? So What?) Think about the ladder of abstraction.
* Look closely at the author’s stylistic choices. Consider the following:
  + **Characterization:** What are some key ways in which the nature of the character is revealed to the reader in the quote that you can analyze?
* How does he/she act? How do others act toward him or her and why?
* What does he/she say, in what tone, and how do others respond to what is said?
* What do others say to the character **or** about the character? What insights does that provide the reader?
* What does the narrator say about the character, how is he/she describe? (consider appearance, thoughts, feelings, responses, etc.)
  + **Symbolism:** What symbols are used throughout the literature and why?
    - What is the actual nature of the symbol; for instance, why a conch instead of a piece of drift wood in *Lord of the Flies*? Why has the writer chosen this particular symbol?
    - What abstract idea(s) might the writer being trying to illustrate with the concrete symbol? How does the symbol and then the idea(s) evolve over the course of the novel?
    - What argument(s) does the symbol help advance (further develop) in the story and how?
  + **Foreshadowing:** How and why does the writer hint at upcoming events in the literature? Why might the author have wanted to catch our attention about a specific idea/issue early in the novel instead of forcing us to wait until the end of the story?
  + **Irony:** How and/or why does the author use irony to establish an argument?
* Why does the author want the reader to understand some aspect of the story that the characters do not?
* Why does the author want the reader to expect one course of action but another occurs?
* Why does the author narrate one idea when he/she really means something else?
* How does the use of irony in a given situation in the book help develop the author’s argument?
* How does this quote connect to a larger argument(s) in the novel?
* What connections can you make to our society, world, etc.

***ALL OF THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS IN STEP 2***

***COULD BECOME A SENTENCE IN YOUR ANALYSIS—depending on the quote you select.***