

## The Quote Sandwich

Do quote here, from both your authors and from any other piece that's relevant to your comparison. Use parenthetical references, MLA style. Remember to include authors' names, either in the signal phrase or in the parentheses. It helps to think of each quote as a **sandwich** that looks like this:

Context
Quote
Explanation

Begin by offering **context** for the quote; this might include who said it, when, what's being discussed.

Isabel Allende tried to hand on her own love of books to her children.

Insert the **quote**, making sure that it's properly punctuated.

She's disappointed that her son never reads any fiction. "I've tried to imagine," she says, "how his mind and heart work, without nourishment from books. I can't" (Allende 114).

Then **explain** your reaction to the quote—offer some comment, analysis, or insight about it.

Books, especially great fiction, have helped Allende find words for her own feelings. She implies, here, that they also help us to understand the feelings of others. Books create empathy.

Conveniently, the quote sandwich makes a nice paragraph. Try it!

- *Courtesy of Susan Griffin, UCLA Writing Programs*