QUOTE WEAVING: 8 ESSENTIAL RULES

1. Confirm that the quote strongly supports your answer—the argument you’re trying to prove.

2. Ask yourself: Is this a fact that I can paraphrase myself in my own words...or is it essential to use the author’s words or phrases?

Examples You Can Paraphrase
• Don’t put a basic fact or object from a story in quotes, unless it’s very unique or distinct. The following examples DON’T need quotes:
• Unnecessary quoting: Annie’s boyfriend transforms into “some kind of ape” and then a month later, a “sea turtle.”
• Paraphrase: Annie’s boyfriend transforms into an ape and then a month later, a sea turtle.

*(Notice, in the paraphrase I took out “some kind of”. These are the writer’s words and using that exact phrasing would be plagiarism).

Examples You Can Paraphrase
“Group Mobilization as a Desperate Cry for Help”
• Text: “Really hot-looking women are encouraged to walk with me, hold my hand, and act like I’m their new boyfriend.”
• Paraphrase: In his instructions, the narrator even requests that attractive women should hold his hand so that Deborah will think he has moved on and has a new girlfriend.

3. Use the author’s exact words. We cannot reinvent or change the writer’s text.

4. WEAVE only what you need from a quote into your own sentence. The star of the writing is YOU and YOUR THINKING. You don’t need to use an entire long quote...so

➢ Use Only What You Need

➢ Let’s say I want to write a sentence about what caused Annie to realize she had to let Ben go and I want to use the quote below. I don’t need all of it!
➢ Original Quote from “The Rememberer”: “Because I cannot bear to look down into the water and not be able to find him at all, to search the tiny clear waves with a microscope lens and to locate my lover, the one-celled wonder, bloated and bordered, brainless, benign, heading clear and small like an eye-floater into nothingness.”

➢ The words and phrases in bold are what I used from the quote in my own sentence.
When Annie realizes that Ben will soon be nothing more than a “brainless” cell and “cannot bear to look down into the water and not be able to find him at all” she realizes that who he was will soon be gone and that she must let him go (Bender 7).
5. Weave Don’t Dump

**Dumping:**
- When Ben changes into an ape, Annie still feels connected to him. “Even before I saw the eyes, I knew it was him” (Bender 6).

Our goal in English III is to learn how to weave a quote into **ONE** complete sentence. The example above is **TWO** sentences. We want to find a way to **WEAVE** the quote into our original sentence.

**Weaving:**
- When Ben changes into an ape, though his appearance has changed, Annie still feels connected to him and “knew it was him” (Bender 6).

6. A sentence with a quote must be complete—not a run-on.

- **Do the “Turney” Test.**
  Last year Turney Maurer made a great observation about quote weaving. He said something like this: “So, when you read a sentence out loud that has a quote woven in it, it should just sound like a regular sentence—like you wouldn’t even know the quote was there.”

- **On paper, to do this test:**
  1. Get rid of the quotation marks
  2. Remove any periods except the one at the end.

- When Ben first begins changing, Annie seems to embrace his new form. “I wanted to know him every possible way but I didn’t realize he wasn’t coming back” (Bender 6).

- **Here’s a fixed version. Notice that without the quotation marks, it’s a complete sentence that could stand on its own.**

- When Ben first begins changing, Annie seems to embrace his new form and even “wanted to know him every possible way” (Bender 6).

- **When Ben first begins changing, Annie seems to embrace his new form and even wanted to know him every possible way.**

7. Include the CONTEXT of the quote: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW

- Without context, our writing is less clear. In the sentence below, where I have woven a quote, the words and phrases in bold, help establish the CONTEXT of the quote.

**Example of PROVIDING sNO CONTEXT**
- David judges them as “alone and out of place” (Sedaris 4).
Example of PROVIDING CONTEXT

- Because they showed up at his door in their homemade costumes the day after Halloween, David judges the Tomkey children as “alone and out of place” (Sedaris 4).

8. Explain how your quote supports your answer.

- **Answer:** When Annie’s boyfriend begins to de-evolve, she remains committed to their relationship; however, when the severity of Ben’s transformation limits their relationship, she feels compelled to let him go.

- **Explanation at end**
  Upon discovering that Ben is an ape and no longer human, Annie recalls that she “didn’t even really care” and “didn’t panic” (Bender 6). In fact she sits with him outside and brushes the fur on his hand. This demonstrates her open-minded attitude. Even though he’s changed, she stays with him, as if she’s hoping their relationship can somehow continue.

- **Explanation at the beginning**
  Even though Ben changes, Annie remains open-minded and stays with him, as if she’s hoping their relationship can somehow continue. Upon discovering that he is an ape and no longer human, she recalls that she “didn’t even really care” and “didn’t panic” (Bender 6). In fact she sits with him outside and brushes the fur on his hand.

- **Explanation in the middle**
  Upon discovering that Ben is an ape and no longer human, Annie recalls that she “didn’t even really care” and “didn’t panic” (Bender 6). Even though he has changed, she remains open-minded and stays with him, and her actions demonstrate that she’s hoping their relationship can somehow continue. For example, she sits with him outside and brushes the fur on his hand.