

Name _____

Date _____

Use Quotations

Quotations from credible sources, experts, and witnesses can strengthen your writing by providing support for your topic or argument. However, adding quotations without explaining their relevance can make your writing seem disconnected. To make quotations flow naturally within a paragraph, writers should clearly explain how the quotation relates to their main idea.

Sometimes, paraphrasing or shortening a quotation can improve fluency, but writers must ensure that they do not change the original meaning of the quoted words. Quotations should fit seamlessly into a paragraph, and explanations should guide the reader to understand their importance.

Read the paragraphs below and write an explanation sentence for each quotation. Make sure your explanation helps the quotation flow naturally within the paragraph.

Paragraph 1:

In *The Secret of Gumbo Grove*, Miss Effie wants Raisin to grasp the importance of remembering the past and those who struggled in slavery. She wants Raisin to help her preserve an old cemetery that dates back to the slavery era. But Raisin's mother objects. "Raisin, honey," she says, "that cemetery over there is so depressing. Lots of those stories ain't pretty to hear."

Explanation: _____

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Paragraph 2:

Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was the first African American to graduate from West Point in the 20th century. He is honored today, but his former classmates were against his inclusion in the elite school. They "silenced" him, meaning that no one spoke to him for four years. Says Davis of the treatment, "I was not missing anything by not associating with them. They were missing a great deal by not knowing me."

Explanation:

Paragraph 3:

A long-standing concern about wind farms has now been debunked: They can coexist with bird populations, at least in the United Kingdom where a recent study was performed. "[This study] shows that there can be serious species-level impacts in the construction phase, so construction in the right place is absolutely key," said Martin Harper, the UK conservation director.

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Use Quotations – Answer Key

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Explanation:

Raisin's mother's words highlight the emotional difficulty of confronting stories from the past, even though they are important to preserving history.

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Paragraph 2:

Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was the first African American to graduate from West Point in the 20th century. He is honored today, but his former classmates were against his inclusion in the elite school. They “silenced” him, meaning that no one spoke to him for four years. Says Davis of the treatment, “I was not missing anything by not associating with them. They were missing a great deal by not knowing me.”

Explanation:

Davis’s response shows his strength and confidence, emphasizing that his classmates’ rejection reflected their own loss, not his.

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Explanation:

Harper’s statement underscores the importance of careful planning during wind farm construction to minimize harm to bird populations.