

How to Integrate a Document into Your Writing

Document 1

Source: Christopher Columbus, describing his first encounter with the native Arawak men and women (This is an excerpt from Columbus's personal journal, translated by Robert H. Fuson).

“They...brought us parrots and balls of cotton and spears and many other things, which they exchanged for the glass beads and hawks' bells. They willingly traded everything they owned...They were well built, with good bodies and handsome features...They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane...They would make fine serv-ants...With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want.”

S- Christopher Columbus, an Italian Explorer for Spain

O- Discovered new land, writing about the people he's come into contact with

A- The Spanish Monarchy

P- To inform the Spanish that there is a new land, new resources and the natives will be easy to enslave

Question: How did Christopher Columbus' journey to the Americas impact the world?

- 1) Must cite the document
- 2) Must bring in outside information to make sense of the document

How to Introduce a Source

- Don't say 'In Document 1' or 'In Document A' or whatever the name of the document is. You want to introduce the actual name of the document or the author itself.
 - **Example:** In Christopher Columbus' journal, he explains...
 - **Example:** In a journal written by Christopher Columbus, he describes...
- You can quote the document directly or paraphrase, however, it's always better paraphrase.
 - The rule in history is you only want to quote the source when what they say is so good, you can't say it any better yourself.

Direct quote example: Christopher Columbus stated that "...They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance" when describing the natives (Document 1).

Paraphrase example: Throughout his journal, Columbus remarks how the natives he came into contact with were not very smart and would be very easy to enslave since, they did not know what objects, such as a sword, were (Document 1).

- **ALWAYS** cite your document at the **END** of the sentence in parenthesis. **I CANNOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH.**
 - **Example:** Christopher Columbus was impressed by the build of the natives, but knew they would be easy to enslave because of how ignorant they were (Document 1).

Question: How did Christopher Columbus' journey to the Americas impact the world?

_____ =Bad

_____ =Okay

_____ =Good

Response 1: Christopher Columbus had a big impact on the world. Because of him, the United States was created.

*This response would be an F. Although you answered the question, you did not include the document in your response nor did you provide a lot of outside information.

Response 2: Christopher Columbus had a big impact on the world. After convincing Spain to fund his exploration, he discovered the Americas in 1492. In Document 1, Columbus talks about how the natives he came into contact with were easy to enslave. Because of Columbus, other countries, such as Portugal, England and France, would also make the journey to the Americas.

*This response would be a C. Although you have great outside information (Columbus sailing for Spain, other nations making the journey to the Americas) you did not introduce or cite the document properly.

Response 3: Christopher Columbus had a big impact on the world. After convincing Spain to fund his exploration, he discovered the Americas in 1492. Throughout his journal, Columbus writes about how the natives he came into contact with would be easy to enslave, making it possible for Spain to conquer this newly discovered territory (Document 1). Because of Columbus, other countries, such as Portugal, England and France, would also make the journey to the Americas.

*This response would be an A. Great outside information (Columbus sailing for Spain, Spain wanting to conquer new territory, other nations making the journey to the Americas) AND you cited properly!

Document 3: Map, The Columbian Exchange, from textbook World History: Patterns of Interaction, 2009. (p. 572)



Question: What was the Columbian Exchange?

Response 1: The Columbian Exchange was the exchange of goods and services between Europe and North America. In Document 3, you can see how foods such as bananas, coffee beans and corn were exchanged between the different countries.

Response 2: The Columbian Exchange was a big deal. You can see in the picture, there was food and diseases and stuff was exchanged.

Response 3: The Columbian Exchange was the transfer of goods and services between Europe and the Americas. Items such as turkeys, sugar cane and tobacco were introduced and exchanged between the Europeans and the Native Americans (Document 3). The deadliest trade of the Columbian Exchange were the diseases, as 95% of Native Americans would eventually be killed by Small Pox.

Which responses were the best? Color the answer with Bad, Okay or Good