Quote of the Week Directions

Quote of the Week is ongoing practice for an important strand of academic writing that you will need to do in both high school and college: the ability to accurately restate someone else’s ideas in your own words, and then respond with your own ideas. It also cultivates *elaboration* (the ability to develop an argument) and *fluency* (getting ideas on paper quickly).

In short, this assignment is to CHARACTERIZE and RESPOND.

CHARACTERIZE:

Your reader needs to know who said what. Here is a simple template for a topic sentence:

[Full name] + [strong verb] that [paraphrased statement].

* You must always refer to an author or speaker by their full name the first time you mention them, and then by their last name afterwards. You may not call them by their first name.
* Strong verbs: *suggests, states, argues*, etc. Avoid “says” and progressive verb tenses such as “is saying.”
* Paraphrasing means that you put their quote in your own words. Give an accurate interpretation – focus on what they mean, rather than sticking close to the way they express their idea. Do not repeat their words.
* Try to develop your characterization by adding another sentence or two to fully explain the speaker’s point. Consider what you know about the person’s biography and historical setting.

RESPOND: DEFEND, CHALLENGE, OR QUALIFY topic sentences

Your response to the quote will take one of three forms:

* I agree with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (defend)
* I disagree with \_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_\_. (challenge)
* Although I certainly agree that \_\_\_\_\_\_, I utterly reject \_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s assertion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (qualify means agree with certain points, disagree with others).

More on QUALIFY: the order of agreeing or disagreeing will be determined by which one you feel more strongly about. Your main point is your ASSERTION. The less strong point is the CONCESSION. Follow this pattern:

Although CONCESSION, ASSERTION.

To finish your response, give ample support in the form of examples from real life, the news, or literature; reasons; personal experiences; etc.

I will want you to fill at least one page with two substantial paragraphs following this format. If you do not complete the assignment in the 7 – 10 minutes allotted, you need to finish it on your own time.

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