INTEGRATING QUOTATIONS

1. <u>Support</u>**: Using what someone else has written as support for your own claims/ideas.**

   a. <u>Further Textual Evidence:</u> Say you want to argue that new media and technologies have the capacity to change our experience of the body. In this case you might use a passage from McLuhan's *Understanding Media* as support for this view in the discourse of media theory.

2. <u>Background</u>**: Using another text as background information or the basis for a new inquiry**

   a. <u>Basis for Extension</u>: Say you are basically in agreement with Le Guin on the problems of fantasy and the imagination in America. You can use her writing as a starting point for an argument that offers a new angle or context, perhaps modernizing her idea of "disciplining the imagination" in the digital age.

   b. <u>Methodological Approach</u>: Say you really like the approach of Ken Robinson, but disagree with the specific arguments and conclusions he makes about education and personalization. You can still use Robinson's terms, concepts, or approach to setup your own argument.

3. <u>Focus</u>**: Using the ideas or language of another author as a point of reference for initiating your own argument.**

   a. Argue against the <u>assumptions</u> ("We can't apply X principles piecemeal to Y, since A,B)

   b. Argue against the <u>methods</u> ("The passages the person cites are not interpreted properly… (Fails to look at context, etc.))

   c. Argue that the <u>evidence is not sufficient</u> to support or warrant the claim. ("For every claim that represents technology as a neutral tool, there are examples ignored by author X that show technology is political…")

   d. Argue against the <u>consequences</u> ("Such an interpretation of *technology* denies the social power that makes it worth considering in the first place...")

Some General Tips

1. <u>Quotations don't do your thinking for you</u>: Quotations are only as effective as your handling of them. They should not (and cannot) do your thinking for you. This means in almost all cases quotations need introduction and comment, especially in case #3 above.

2. <u>Pay attention to the needs of your point:</u> Don't just plop a huge quotation into your prose without considering what parts (if any) are needed to establish your ideas. Can you just reference the idea and cite the page? Or does the language matter (and hence it should be cited in full)? Do I need the whole paragraph, or just a sentence?

3. <u>Read your usage aloud to yourself:</u> After integrating a quotation into your prose, make sure to read it back to make sure it flows well and does not change in meaning given your language in introducing it or commenting on it.