

quoting

Objectives:

- ◆ incorporating other voices in your essay
- ◆ summarizing + synthesizing



5-minute free-write

1. Open up your essay
2. Find the quotes you use or key passages you summarize for each writer
3. Write:
 - ◆ Why did you choose these quotes/passages?
 - ◆ How do they connect to each other?

A vertical rectangular box containing the text "5-minute free-write" at the top. Below the text is a red horizontal line, followed by a series of 18 blue horizontal lines, creating a ruled area for writing.

why do we quote?

- explain term/concepts
- support your thesis/claims
- lend authority to your argument
- give voice to opposing viewpoints
- **when they can say it better than you can**

give context,
introduce

sprinkles

quote,
cite

icing

interpret,
explain,
connect

cake



quote cupcake

Don't "Quote and Run"

- No one wants a face full of icing (quote).
- We need sprinkles (context/introduction) and the cake (explanation).



“Traveling Teaches Students in a Way Schools Can’t”

Traveling abroad made me realize that the “advantages” I initially thought I had over others were not necessarily advantages to everyone. Many actually preferred living with the challenges they faced over living in a country like mine [the U.S.], where other things are missing. **For example, a professional I met in South America who had turned down a job offer in the United States told me, “I’d never want to move there, even though I’d make more money. The social part of life is better here, I find people happier here, and my quality of life is what matters most.” Rick Steves, the popular travel guidebook writer and television host, expressed similar thoughts in an interview with Salon when he said, “It’s a very powerful Eureka! moment when you’re traveling: to realize that people don’t have the American dream. They’ve got their own dream. And that’s not a bad thing. That’s a good thing.” The South American professional and Rick Steves remind us that American life is not the standard measure of success and happiness; they remind us that not everyone wants to be an American and we should not make judgements about others’ life choices. These were important lessons for me to learn as a young person in the midst of making important life decisions. It was empowering to know I had experienced a wide range of perspectives and could use them to make choices for myself—that I had been in situations with few resources or comforts, and I was still okay.**

Introduce quote (sprinkles)

Quote the passage accurately (icing)

Explain the quote in your own words (cake)

Connect the quote back to your thesis/point (cake wrapper)

Sample paragraph without
the quote cupcake parts

“Traveling Teaches Students in a Way Schools Can’t”

Traveling abroad made me realize that the “advantages” I initially thought I had over others were not necessarily advantages to everyone. “I’d never want to move there, even though I’d make more money. The social part of life is better here, I find people happier here, and my quality of life is what matters most.” Rick Steves expressed similar thoughts, “It’s a very powerful Eureka! moment when you’re traveling: to realize that people don’t have the American dream. They’ve got their own dream. And that’s not a bad thing. That’s a good thing.” It was empowering to know I had experienced a wide range of perspectives and could use them to make choices for myself—that I had been in situations with few resources or comforts, and I was still okay.

It’s readable, but it’s underdeveloped: the reader has to guess at the context for the quotes (and who is Rick Steves, and why do I care what he says?), and why the writer included them.

Different Claims, Different Flavors of Cupcake

- Part of the reason you need to focus on explaining is because you don't want your reader to misunderstand what your claim is.
- A reader may interpret a quote differently than you do.
- Be sure to explain and interpret the quote in order to help the reader see what the quote means and how it supports your claim.

The cupcake method goes by many names*

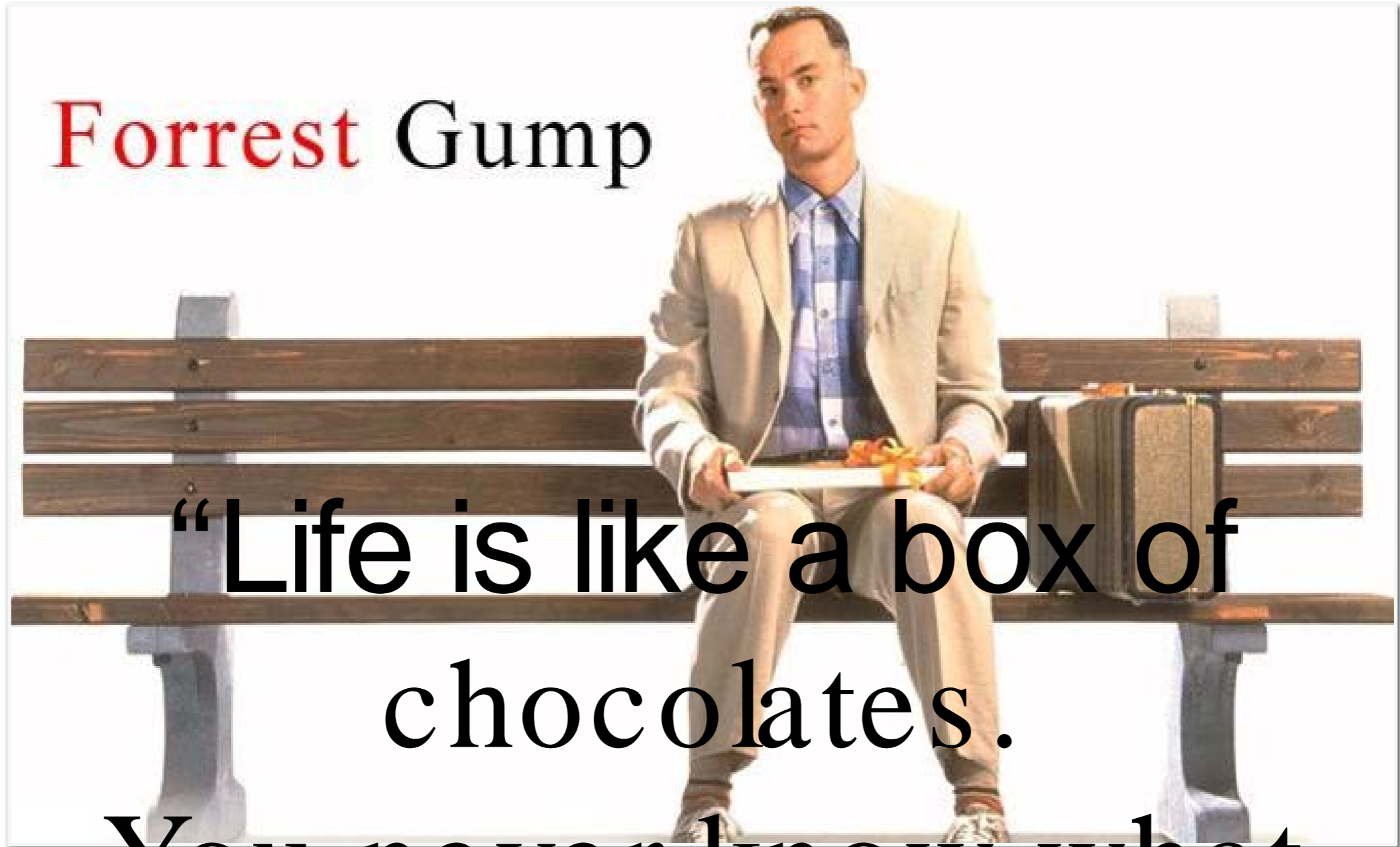
- Another way to remember this is the mnemonic *I.C.E.*: **introduce, cite, and explain.**
- You may also know it as *P.I.E.*: **point, information/illustration, and explanation.**

*Though it may go by different names,
the patter is essentially the same.

Example Time!

- Let's take a look at how one quote can be understood many different ways.

Forrest Gump



“Life is like a box of
chocolates.

You never know what
you’re going to get.”

same quote: different claims, different flavor cupcakes

- Forrest Gump teaches viewers the importance of optimism.
- Forrest Gump teaches viewers the importance of making the most of a situation.
- Forrest Gump teaches viewers they are not in control of their lives.
- Forrest Gump teaches viewers the importance of making informed choices.
- Forrest Gump teaches viewers the importance of being more adventurous.
- Forrest Gump teaches viewers the importance of being cautious in life.
- Forrest Gump teaches viewers to chill out and let go of expectations.
- Forrest Gump teaches viewers the importance of being prepared for any situation.
- Forrest Gump teaches viewers to expect the unexpected.