**Unit 5:** Freedom From Reconstruction to World War II (1877-1939)

**Essential Question:** What do policies and programs meant to Americanize immigrants reveal about American identity and how are these policies and programs, and in turn, conceptions of American identity, shaped by immigration?

**Independent Investigative Research Project**

**Quotations**

The appropriate use of quotations in your essay can help you meet or exceed standards for several of the outcome targets being assessed for this paper. Integrating evidence using the appropriate punctuation can help enhance your ability to **argue, be precise, communicate, conclude, discern** and **investigate.**

**When and why to include a direct quote:**

Think of a research paper like it was a court case and you are attempting to prove that the defendant is guilty of murder. Would you simply tell the jury the story of what happened in your own words? Or, would you include eyewitness testimony and expert opinions to help prove your case?

**A strong research paper includes:**

1. **Opinions of experts:** You are not an expert (or at least not yet) so in order for your reader to be convinced that your argument is not just what you think but rather what the research supports, then you need to support your claims with quotes from people who are.
2. **Excerpts from primary source accounts (eyewitness testimony)** His/her/their words would be stronger, more nuanced and authentic than your words.

For example, suppose you were writing an essay about the differences between the lives of male and female slaves in the U.S. South. One of your most provocative sources is a narrative written by a former slave, Harriet Jacobs. It would then be appropriate to quote some of Jacobs’s words:

Harriet Jacobs, a former slave from North Carolina, published an autobiographical slave narrative in 1861. She exposed the hardships of both male and female slaves but ultimately concluded that “slavery is terrible for men; but it is far more terrible for women.”

In this particular example, Jacobs is providing a crucial first-hand perspective on slavery. Thus, her words deserve more exposure than a paraphrase could provide.

**Tips for Introducing Quotations**

1. **Name the title of the source and the author in a signal phrase:**

Example: In her book *Contemporary Feminist Thought*, Eisenstein warns against a "false universalism that addresses itself to all women."

1. **Name only the author:**

**Example**: In a discussion of Enlightenment political philosophy, Eisenstein asserts that while "liberal theory contested the divine right of monarchs and aristocrats to political rule," women questioned the "divine" right of men to deny suffrage to half the population.

1. **Work the quotations into your own sentences.**

**Example**: Edward P. J. Corbett, one of America's most distinguished rhetoricians, defines grammar clearly "as the study of how a language 'works'--a study of how the structural system of a language combines with a vocabulary to convey meaning" (111).

Note that it is not enough to say that Edward Corbett said this because the reader may not know who Corbett is or why his opinion is important. To provide a complete context, name the author and why his/her opinion is valid in this field. In this case, we know Corbett is an expert as he is being identified as “one of America’s most distinguished rhetoricians.”

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#### **Formatting Long Quotations**

For quotations that are more than four lines of prose or three lines of verse, place quotations in a freestanding block of text and omit quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented ½ inch from the left margin; maintain double-spacing. Only indent the first line of the quotation by an additional quarter inch if you are citing multiple paragraphs. Your parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark. When quoting verse, maintain original line breaks. (You should maintain double-spacing throughout your essay.)

For example, when citing more than four lines of prose, use the following examples:

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)

**For additional support on using quotations in your writing, consider the following website.**

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/quotations/