

# Integrating Quotes

West Campus Writing Center

Here are some synonyms for *integrate*:

blend

combine

coordinate

harmonize

mesh

Which synonym do you think best fits the context of integrating quotes into an essay? Why?

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Here are two excerpts from an essay about recycling plastic. Which is a better example of effectively using source material to develop a thesis?

- (A) Chemical recycling typically uses heat or chemical solvents to break down plastics into liquid and gas to produce an oil-like mixture or basic chemicals. Industry leaders say that mixture can be made back into plastic pellets to make new products. “What we are trying to do is really create a circular economy for plastics because we think it is the most viable option for keeping plastic out of the environment,” said Joshua Baca, vice president of the plastics division at the American Chemistry Council, the industry trade association for American chemical companies (qtd. in McDermott).
- (B) Judith Enck says plastics recycling doesn’t work and never will. Chemical additives and colorants used to give plastic different properties mean that there are thousands of types, she said. That’s why they can’t be mixed together and recycled in the conventional, mechanical way. Nor is there much of a market for recycled plastic, because virgin plastic is cheap, she said. So what is more likely to happen than actual recycling, said Enck is the industry will shift to burning plastics as waste or as fuel (McDermott).

## Work Cited

McDermott, Jennifer. “Advanced Recycling: Plastic Crisis Solution or Distraction?” *AP News*. 21 October 2022. <https://apnews.com/article/science-united-states-providence-business-climate-and-environment-b9f202a703ea7fa4231053d544b3266e>. Accessed 31 October 2022.

Imagine an argument essay with this thesis: **reforming the student-loan system is a far better long-term solution to the student-debt crisis than blanket forgiveness of student loans.**

One body paragraph might begin like this:

For both loan forgiveness and reform of federal student assistance programs, the federal government's highest priority should be solutions that specifically address the needs of low-income students. In his summary of President Biden's campaign proposals for changes to the federal student loan program, Adam Looney, an economist who is the executive director of the Marriner S. Eccles Institute at the University of Utah, emphasizes that those proposals make "no case for taxpayers subsidizing sky-high private school tuition, children from high-income families, or graduate and professional degrees." His comments address three related problems that have prompted objections to general loan forgiveness. First, an unintended consequence of the federal student loan program appears to be a dramatic rise in the cost of college, well beyond normal inflation. General loan forgiveness would only contribute to that trend. Secondly, because all students, regardless of family income, qualify for the federal student loan program, there is very little incentive for upper-middle class parents to do a serious cost-benefit analysis when considering an elite institution. As a result, households earning over \$100,000 account for more than a third of all student loans (Looney). Finally, the decision to earn a graduate degree, particularly an MBA or a degree in a profession like medicine, is generally a secure investment, so recipients of graduate school loans are not at high risk for defaulting. Consequently, they should not be the beneficiaries of loan forgiveness. However, those earning graduate degrees in fields that are important to our society but not as well compensated, like education or social work, should be able to get help with student debt through programs for loan forgiveness through public service.

#### Works Cited

Looney, Adam. "Biden Can and Should Target Student-loan Debt Forgiveness." *Brookings*. 31 May 2022.

[www.brookings.edu/opinions/biden-can-and-should-target-student-loan-debt-forgiveness/](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/biden-can-and-should-target-student-loan-debt-forgiveness/). Accessed 1 July 2022.