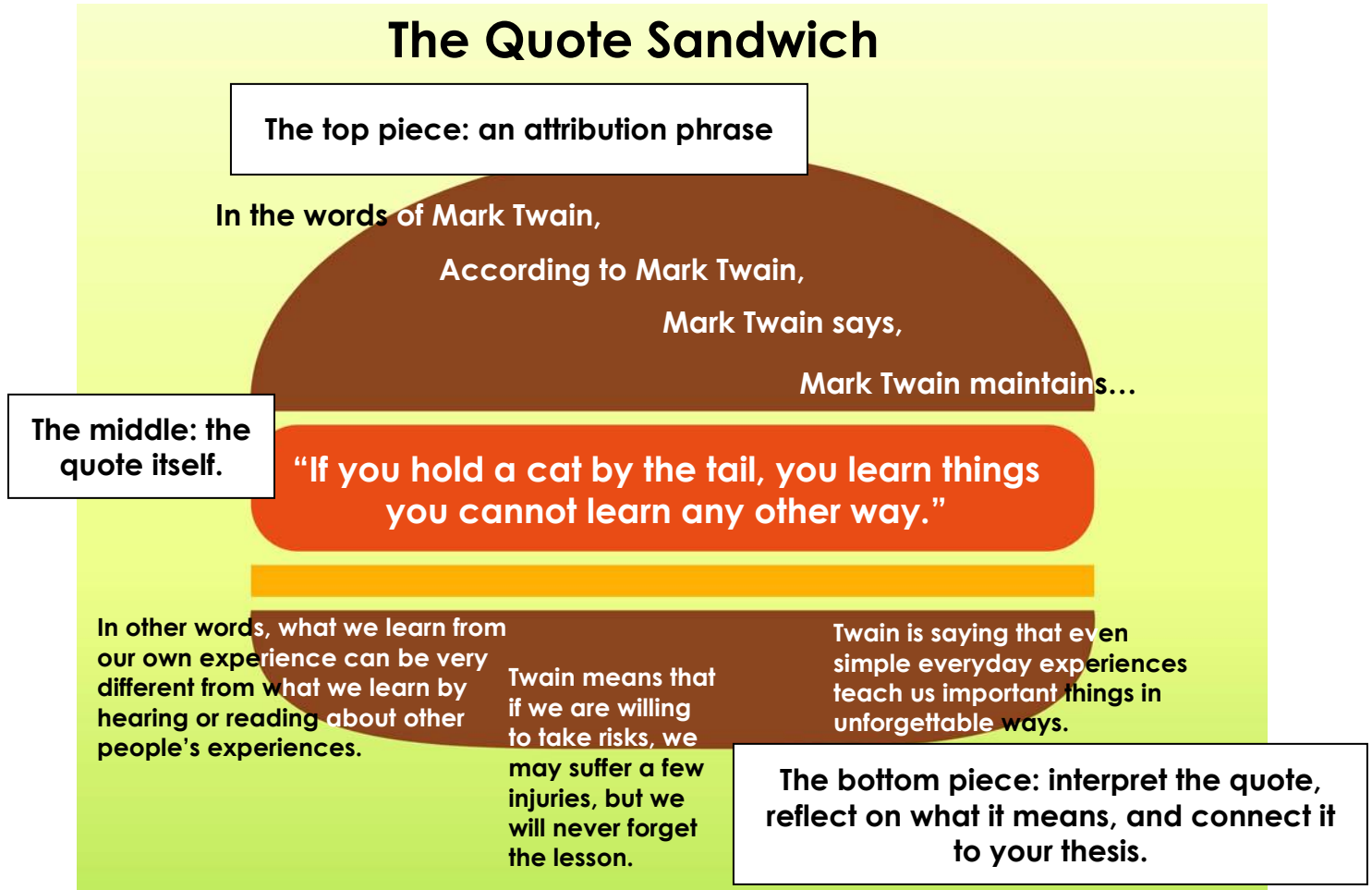


The quote “sandwich”

You can use many kinds of evidence to support a claim—examples, anecdotes, explanations, research results, or statistics, for example. You may also use quotes from others. However, you have to connect the quote to your claim so that it clearly supports it—you cannot just drop a quote in without adding a comment, explanation, reflection, or connection.

It may help to think of the quote as a sandwich: the quote itself is the important stuff in the middle. But it has to have a top piece—an attribution phrase introducing it—and a bottom piece—your own interpretation, explanation or connection.



The quote exists to help *you* make *your* point, so you need to clearly state what the quote means to you and how it connects to your point. The quote can never do all that by itself. The example above demonstrates shows three different ways to interpret Twain’s quote and connect to related ideas:

- One interpretation connects the quote to the idea that personal experience may sometimes be better (or worse) than formal classroom learning.
- One interpretation connects the quote to the value of risk-taking in learning.
- One interpretation connects the quote to the value of everyday experience.

Contributed by Rosemary McKeever

