

## QUOTE SET ASSIGNMENT EXAMPLE

**To clarify the quote set assignment, here are two examples. Remember, this assignment** has you find ONE quote from Plato, and ONE quote from one of the four texts we've worked in in class (Hedges, Malcolm X, Douglass, or Rifkin) that you think is related to the Plato quote, and describe how the two quotes are related. So, the QUOTE SET ASSIGNMENT is simple. **YOU WILL USE YOUR OWN QUOTE SETS.** Again, the quote set has three components:

1. Find ONE quote from Plato
2. Find ONE quote from one other text (either Hedges, Malcolm X, Douglass, or Rifkin) that you think is related to the Plato quote in some way.
3. Write up a brief commentary on how you think the two quotes relate to each other, how the Plato quote is useful in understanding the other quote you cited. Type it up and that's it!

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF A COMPLETE QUOTE SET ASSIGNMENT (you can format/organize it this way):

1. **Plato:** "At first when any of the prisoners is liberated and compelled suddenly to stand and turn his neck round and walk toward the light, he will suffer sharp pains, the glare will distress him" (1113).
2. **Hedges:** "Truth, at least as far as it can be discerned, is not comfortable or enjoyable to listen to, nor is the emotion and anger that accompanies all passionate assaults on lies and injustice." (2).
3. **Commentary:** Plato's passage helps explain, in a different way, the sometimes painful effects of a kind of journalism devoted to what Hedges calls the "truth." Like the prisoner confronting what Plato calls the blinding "glare" and "distress" or reality, the readers of great American journalism also suffer "sharp pains" when confronted with the reality of what Hedges refers to as the oppressive and unjust "truth" of various systems of power—a truth exposed and represented in his more rebellious alternative to mainstream American journalism.

THAT'S IT! HERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE WITH A DIFFERENT QUOTE SET:

1. **Plato:** "I think he would rather suffer anything than entertain these false notions and live in this miserable manner" (1114)
2. **Malcolm X:** "I will never forget how shocked I was when I began reading about slavery's total horror... The world's most monstrous crime, the sin and the blood on the white man's hands, are almost impossible to believe" (718-19)
3. **Commentary:** "The quotes taken from Plato's "Allegory" and MX's "A Homemade Education" refer to the bittersweet discovery of truth and how living with knowledge is more favorable than living with ignorance. To "entertain these false notions," as Plato says, would be

similar to Malcolm X living unaware of the cruelty that African Americans faced under white oppression. Plato's quote speaks of how the enlightened individual would much rather suffer the true knowledge of reality than live blissfully in ignorance. Similarly, Malcolm X discusses how his discovery of white domination and evil shocked him so dramatically that he could not forget and could never return to the ignorance of the reality of white oppression that preceded his learning to read.

*(Note, here, how the two examples try to put the two quotes into "conversation" with each other, showing what the two quotes have in common, and how the Plato quote helps explain, in a different way, the other quote.)*

**SO, FOR THE QUOTE SET ASSIGNMENT, YOU HAVE TO COME UP WITH TWO QUOTE SETS THAT FOLLOWS THIS MODEL.**