Barclay's Formula for Working with Multiple Sources in a Paper

Working with two texts in a paragraph is a challenge. But it is also a helpful way to show our critical thinking through writing. It helps push us beyond describing what an author says and often helps us extend or even challenge an author's ideas.

What We Know

- Paragraphs have a main point or claim.
- We need textual evidence.
- We need to explain how/why the evidence supports our claim.

The Formula

$$CL + I_Q{}^1 + Q^1 + E_Q{}^1 + T_Q{}^2 + Q^2 + E_Q{}^1{}_Q{}^2{}_{CL} + T_{CL+1}$$

CL – Your claim. Set it up with topic sentences.

I – Introduce your quote (signal phrase, lead in).

Q – A Quote. (Paraphrase or Description can substitute for a Quote.)

E – Explain how your quote supports the Claim.

T – Transition into Quote 2 (signal phrase, lead in).

E$_Q{}^1{}_Q{}^2{}_{CL}$ – The payload. Explain how the passages help advance your Claim.

T – Transition to your next Claim (CL+1)