

Aside from this note, I'm using 12-point "Minion Pro." If you have it, feel free to use it; otherwise, please stick to "Times" or "Times New Roman."

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Course subject and number

November 13, 2007

Double-Spacing, One-Inch Margins, and a Clever Title

Here are a few examples of quotes, all from *Macbeth*. If I want to quote two or fewer lines of drama or poetry, I would do it in-line, as when Macduff declares: "O, I could play the woman with mine eyes / And braggart with my tongue!" (4.3.232-33). Mark line breaks with a forward slash (surrounded on each side by a single space). Note that there's a period after the parenthetical citation, even though there's an exclamation point at the end of the quote itself. The only time you include the concluding punctuation in an in-line quote is when it is important to communicate meaning. Thus, exclamation points and question marks are in; every other punctuation mark is out. Don't include punctuation in a quote that doesn't exist in the quoted text itself, unless you employ ellipsis [" . . ."] to show that you're abbreviating a quote. When you use ellipsis, make sure that you're abbreviating in order to make your point more efficiently—don't trim just a word or two. If you cut out essential information—especially information that may alter the meaning of what you've quoted—you mislead, even lie to, your reader. (Even though it's the truth, it is wrong for you to have Richard M. Nixon say, "I am . . . a crook.")

If I want to quote more than three lines of drama or poetry—and also more than three lines of prose—I would do it in the following manner, as when the Doctor declares:

A great perturbation in nature, to receive at once the benefit of sleep and do the effects of watching! In this slumbry agitation, besides her walking and other actual performances, what, at any time, have you heard her say? (5.1.7-10)

Since I'm continuing the same paragraph, I have not indented this line. The above block quote isn't quite correct as an example of prose: since all of *Macbeth* is referenced by act, scene, and line

numbers, I need to use those in my parenthetical reference. Were I quoting prose that *isn't* from a play or a poem, I would instead cite the page number. Let's pretend that *Macbeth* is just a prose text. In our edition, I would change the above "(5.1.7-10)" to "(96)"; for in-line quotations, I'd follow that with a period, but I wouldn't follow the parenthetical citation with *any* punctuation in a block quote. With poetry or other texts that feature line breaks, you would quote it in this way, as Macbeth laments:

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow
 Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
 To the last syllable of recorded time,
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
 The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
 Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
 And then is heard no more. It is a tale
 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
 Signifying nothing.

This is one of Macbeth's more famous speeches and has (at least) inspired the title of William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*. Shakespeare's writing has inspired many titles of novels.

I hope this set of quotation examples can help you as you write your papers. Try to introduce your quotes in as few words as possible; also try to introduce them without constructing convoluted phrases. "Macbeth says" is a much more effective introduction than "Macbeth, the eponymous hero of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, a play from the early 1600s"! If you've found this bit useful, read on to see an example "Works Cited" page. More examples can be found in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, which I've included in the "Works Cited" even though I'm only mentioning it. (That's why *The Sound and the Fury* isn't listed.)

Works Cited

Gibaldi, Joseph, ed. *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003.

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. Ed. David Bevington. *Macbeth: Texts and Contexts*. Ed. William C. Carroll. Boston: Bedford, 1999. 23-111.