

QUOTATIONS: How to Include Long and Short Quotes in your Paper

Research and Writing Help from the Norwell High School Library Media Center

SHORT QUOTATION: A quotation of three typed lines or less should be included within the text of your paragraph. It is called an "in-line" quotation. The parenthetical citation should be placed **after** the cited material and quotation marks but **before** the period. Here's an example.

In her book Ernest Hemingway: A Writer's Life, author Catherine Reef comments about the importance of his writing style. "Ernest Hemingway made a lasting impact on the craft of fiction by writing simple sentences and choosing short words rather than long ones" (Reef 5).

LONG QUOTATION: A quotation of more than three typed lines needs to be set apart by double-spacing and an indentation from both the left and right margins. The quotation itself is **single-spaced**. **No quotation marks** are placed around a long quote. The citation appears at the end **after** the period. Following is an example of a long quote from a paper* about Mary Elizabeth Braddon's novel Lady Audley's Secret :

At the novel's conclusion, Braddon plays with this concept of mirrors when we see the exiled Mrs. Talbot in her new rooms at the asylum at Villebremeuse.

My lady stared dismally round at the range of rooms, which looked dreary enough in the wan light of a single wax candle. This solitary flame, pale and ghostlike in itself, was multiplied by paler phantoms of its ghostliness, which glimmered everywhere about the rooms; in the shadowy depths of the polished floors and wainscot, or the window-panes, in the looking-glasses, or in those great expanses of glimmering something which adorned the rooms, and which my lady mistook for costly mirrors, but which were in reality wretched mockeries of burnished tin. (Braddon 382)

ADDING OR OMITTING WORDS IN QUOTATIONS: If you add or change a word in a quotation, you must put **brackets** around the word to show they are not part of the original quotation.

Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states: "some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78). **

When you omit words from a quote, insert ellipsis marks (three periods) to indicate the deleted words.

In an essay on urban legends, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale... and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs" (78). **

* Paper written by Jennifer Pratt, Librarian, Norwell High School Library

** Examples taken from "MLA Formatting Quotations." OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab. Purdue University, 1995-2001. Web. 2Dec. 2011.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03>.

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