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| **Guide to In Text Citations**  **MLA Style – 7th Edition** | **Table of Contents**  **Prose . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1**  **Poetry . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2**  **Drama . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3**  **Omitting Parts of a Quote . . . . 4** |

**Prose Quotation (No More than 4 Lines)**

* **Incorporate it in to the text:**

i.e. Dickens wrote, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” (21) in his novel *A Tale of Two Cities*.

**Prose Quotation (More than 4 Lines)**

* **Off set it from the text by beginning a new line, indenting one inch from the left margin, typing it double spaced, and omitting quotation marks:**

i.e.

At the conclusion of *The Lord of the Flies*, Ralph and the other boys realize the horrors of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (186)

**Prose Quotation (More than 4 Line, Paragraph Break)**

At the conclusion of *The Lord of the Flies*, Ralph and the other boys realize the horrors of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too.

Indent to show new paragraph

It was then that Ralph finally understood the consequences of his actions. The relief washed over him like a great wave. (186)

**Poetry (No More than 3 Lines)**

* **Incorporate it into the text**

i.e. Bradstreet frames the poem with a sense of morality: “All things within this fading worth hath end” (1).

* **Show lines breaks by using a /**

i.e. Reflecting on the incident in Baltimore, Cullen concludes, “Of all the things that happened there / That’s all that I remember” (11-12).

**Poetry (More than 3 Lines)**

* **Begin on a new line, indent each line 1 inch from left margin, double space, and omit quotation marks**

i.e.

Elizabeth Bishop’s “In the Waiting Room” is rich in evocative detail:

It was winter. It got dark

early. The waiting room

was full of grown-up people,

arctics and overcoats,

lamps and magazines. (6-10)

**Drama (Dialogue between Characters)**

* **Begin each part of the dialogue with the character’s name indented one inch from the margin and in all capital letters**
* **Follow the name with a period and start the quotation**

i.e.

Duras’s screenplay for *Hiroshima mon amour* suggests at the outset the profound difference between observation and experience:

SARA. You saw nothing in Hiroshima. Nothing.

BILL. I saw everything. Everything. . . . The hospital for instance, I saw it. I’m sure I did. There is a hospital in Hiroshima. How could I help seeing it? (2505-06)

**Drama (Stage Directions)**

* Follow the same rules for quoting prose
* Ensure they are reproduced exactly the way they appear

**Omitting Part of a Quote**

* **A quote should never be presented in a way that it would cause the reader to misunderstand the sentence structure of the original source**
* **To show an omission, use ellipsis points**
* **For an ellipsis within a sentence, use three periods with a space before each and a space after the last**

i.e.

In surveying various responses to plagues in the Middle Ages, Barbara W. Tuchman writes, “Medical thinking . . . stressed air as the communicator of disease, ignoring sanitation or visible carriers” (101-02).

* If you wish to omit an entire sentence, use a period followed by three ellipsis points

i.e.

In discussing the historical relation between politics and the press, William L. Rivers notes:

Presidential control reached its zenith under Andrew Jackson, the extent of whose attention to the press even before he became a candidate is suggested by the fact that he subscribed to twenty newspapers. . . . For a time, the *United States Telegraph* and the *Washington Globe* were almost equally favored as party organs, and there were fifty-seven journalists on the government payroll. (7)