

QUOTATIONS

1. **The Introduced Quotation:** This method uses a signal phrase to establish the name of the author or speaker.

Example: Anderson writes, “I wanted my father to be a certain thing he was not” (4).
Note the end of this sentence: the end quote mark comes before the parenthesis, with only the number of the page itself in parentheses.
2. **The Blended (or Spliced) Quotation:** This is called a blended quote because your words blend right into those of the author, as if the author’s words dropped right into one of your sentences.

Example: This essay ends on a happy note with the son realizing that he “would never again be wanting another father” (Anderson 5).
This quote fits grammatically into the sentence as if the quotation marks were not even there. Also note the end of this sentence: since you do not mention the author in a signal phrase, you now include his name in the parentheses, followed by the page number.
3. **Quoting a Line from a Poem:** You can introduce or blend lines of poetry. But remember two things: (1) use a slash to show where one line ends and another begins; (2) put line number(s), not page number(s) in parentheses.

Example: In just a few words, the speaker describes the daily obligations of his father: “Sundays too my father got up early / and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold” (Hayden 1-2).
4. **Quotes that End in a Question:** You need to use two pieces of punctuation if your quotation ends in a question mark (or an exclamation point).

Example: The speaker expresses his regret with these final words: “What did I know, what did I know / of love’s austere and lonely offices?” (Hayden 13-14).
Note the end of this sentence: the quote retains its question mark and the parenthesis still needs a closing period.
5. **Double Quotes:** When you quote a quote that sits within the text you are quoting, use single quotes. (See Example 1.) If you are quoting a quote by itself, then use standard quote marks. (See Example 2).

Example 1: When Anderson and his dad return home, Anderson recalls that his mom “called us ‘boys’ ” (8).
Example 2: The turning point in Anderson’s essay begins with the command from the father: “Take off your clothes” (7).
Note: Typically, use the apostrophe key to make single quote marks.
6. **Ellipsis:** You can easily condense a quote by leaving out a phrase or two. Replace the missing material with three dots. Remember, whatever is left must make grammatical sense.

Example: Full, original quote: “It was as though I had been jerked suddenly out of myself, out of my world of the schoolboy, out of a world in which I was ashamed of my father” (Anderson 8).

Example: (Same quote but with signal phrase added and phrases taken out).

Anderson is finally able to accept his father when he himself is willing to grow up a bit: “It was as though I had been jerked . . .out of a world in which I was ashamed of my father” (8).

MLA requires that you put brackets around your ellipsis only if there is ellipsis in the original quote.

Additionally, you will need to put ellipsis at the end of your quote if—in the original—the quote continues.

Example: (Original) “He fell off the horse and everyone hooted with laughter, but he didn’t care” (Anderson 5).

Example: (Signal phrase added and quote ended early.) Anderson’s embarrassment is not only private but also public as he says of his father: “He fell off the horse and everyone hooted with laughter...” (5).

Note that you still need a period after the parenthesis, in addition to the three dots after laughter.

7. Ellipsis and Poetry: For poetry, use ellipsis to indicate material that has been deleted from the middle of a line. Opening and closing ellipsis are not necessary.

8. Other Questions: When do you use a colon? When do you use a comma? If your signal phrase is long (over seven words), use a colon (:) to introduce the quotation. If your signal phrase is short (He writes,) use a comma. If you signal your quote with a sentence (an independent clause), use a colon.

9. Combining Introduced and Blended Quotes: Often you can refer to the author as well as run the quote into your sentence.

Example: Early on, Anderson feels that his father is just a “windbag” (5).

10. The Dropped Quote: A dropped quote is a quote that has not been introduced or blended into your paragraph. *You do not want to drop quotes.* All quotes must be introduced or blended.

Example (Dropped quote): Living with such a temperamental dad, the speaker feels uncertain of his father’s love. “I would rise and dress, / fearing the chronic angers of that house” (Hayden 8-9).

Note that the quote is neither introduced nor blended into the text.

Example (Dropped quote integrated): Living with such a temperamental dad, the speaker feels uncertain of his father’s love. The son remembers that he “would rise and dress/ fearing the chronic angers of that house” (Hayden 8-9).

Note that an additional sentence is created to connect the quote to the text and that the quote is altered by taking out the pronoun “I.” This deletion allows the quote to be blended.

11. Quotation Revised for Verb Tense Consistency: For literature papers, maintaining the present tense is important, but often the quote is in a different tense. You can alter the verb in the quote to match the tense in your paper by using brackets to indicate the change.

Example (Original): “Sundays too my father got up early / and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold” (Hayden 1-2).

Example (Blended with revised verb tense): The father shows his love when he dismisses sleeping in on Sunday and instead “[gets] up early / and [puts] his clothes on in the blueblack cold” (Hayden 1-2).

Note: You can also use brackets to indicate a change in pronoun or add an identifying word for clarity.

12. Placement of Citations: For quotes that end the sentence, place the citation at the end—as in the examples above. For quotes that come elsewhere, put the citation at the nearest grammatical break or at the close of the quote (if that is also a grammatical break in the sentence).

Example: Anderson needs his father’s love, and by “clinging to him” (Anderson 8), he shows that vulnerability.

Example: Every morning the father shows his dedication in “hands that [ache]” (Hayden 3) as he goes about his chores.

NOTE: Most quotes end the sentence since they need to be prepared, but there may be times like those above when a quote carries more punch in the middle of the sentence.