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Lesson Proper for Week 16

PUNCTUATING CITATIONS PROPERLY AND CONSISTENTLY

Keep page citations outside quotation marks but inside the final period, as shown here:

“The benefits of cloning far exceed any harm that might occur” (Smith 34).

In MLA style, use no comma between the name and the page within the citation (for example, Jones 16–17, *not* Jones, 16–17). Do not use *p.* or *pp.* with the page number(s) in MLA style. However, if an author’s name begins a citation to paragraph numbers or screen numbers, *do* include a comma after the author’s name (Richards, par. 4) or (Thompson, screens 6–7).

Commas and Periods

Place commas and periods inside quotation marks unless the page citation intervenes. The example below shows (1) how to put the mark inside the quotation marks, (2) how to interrupt a quotation to insert the speaker, (3) how to use single quotation marks within the regular quotation marks, and (4) how to place the period after a page citation.

“Modern advertising,” says Rachel Murphy, “not only creates a marketplace, it determines values.” She adds, “I resist the advertiser’s argument that they ‘awaken, not create desires’” (192).

Sometimes you may need to change the closing period to a comma. Suppose you decide to quote this sentence: “Scientific cloning poses no threat to the human species.” If you start your sentence with the quotation, you will need to change the period to a comma, as shown:

“Scientific cloning poses no threat to the human species,” declares Joseph Wineberg in a recent article (357).

However, retain question marks or exclamation marks; no comma is required:

“Does scientific cloning pose a threat to the human species?” wonders Mark Durham (546).

Let’s look at other examples. Suppose this is the original material:

The Russians had obviously anticipated neither the quick discovery of the bases nor the quick imposition of the quarantine. Their diplomats across the world were displaying all the symptoms of improvisation, as if they had been told nothing of the placement of the missiles and had received no instructions what to say about them.

—From: Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. *A Thousand Days*. New York: Houghton, 1965. 820.

Punctuate citations from this source in one of the following methods in accordance with MLA style:

“The Russians,” writes Schlesinger, “had obviously anticipated neither the quick discovery of the [missile] bases nor the quick imposition of the quarantine” (820).

Schlesinger notes, “Their diplomats across the world were displaying all the symptoms of improvisation . . .” (820).

Schlesinger observes that the Russian failure to anticipate an American discovery of Cuban missiles caused “their diplomats across the world” to improvise answers as “if they had been told nothing of the placement of the missiles . . .” (820).

Note that the last example correctly changes the capital *T* of “their” to lowercase to match the grammar of the restructured sentence, and it does not use ellipsis points before “if” because the phrase flows smoothly into the text.

Both semicolons and colons go outside the quotation marks, as illustrated by these three examples:

Zigler admits that “the extended family is now rare in contemporary society”; however, he stresses the greatest loss as the “wisdom and daily support of older, more experienced family members” (42).

Zigler laments the demise of the “extended family”: that is, the family suffers by loss of the “wisdom and daily support of older, more experienced family members” (42).

Brian Sutton-Smith says, “Adults don’t worry whether *their* toys are educational” (64); nevertheless, parents want to keep their children in a learning mode.

The third example, immediately above, shows how to place the page citation after a quotation and before a semicolon.

Use the semicolon to separate two or more works in a single parenthetical reference:

(Roman, *Dallas* 16; Manfred 345)

(Steinbeck, *Grapes* 24; Stuben xii)

Question Marks and Exclamation Marks

When a question mark or an exclamation mark serves as part of the quotation, keep it inside the quotation mark. Put the page citation immediately after the name of the source to avoid conflict with the punctuation mark.

Thompson (16) passionately shouted to union members, “We can bring order into our lives even though we face hostility from every quarter!”

If you place the page number at the end of the quotation, retain the original exclamation mark or question mark, follow with the page reference, and then a sentence period outside the citation.

Thompson passionately shouted to union members, “We can bring order into our lives even though we face hostility from every quarter!” (16).

Retain question marks and exclamation marks when the quotation begins a sentence; no comma is required. “We face hostility from every quarter!” declared the union leader.

Question marks appear inside the closing quotation mark when they are part of the original quotation; otherwise, they go outside.

The philosopher Brackenridge (16) asks, “How should we order our lives?” *and*

The philosopher Brackenridge asks, "How should we order our lives?" (16). *but*

Did Brackenridge say that we might encounter "hostility from every quarter" (16)?

Single Quotation Marks

When a quotation appears within another quotation, use single quotation marks with the shorter one. The period goes inside both closing quotation marks.

George Loffler (32) confirms that "the unconscious carries the best of human thought and gives man great dignity, but it also has the dark side so that we cry, in the words of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, 'Hence, horrible shadow! Unreal mockery, hence.'"

Remember that the period always goes inside quotation marks unless the page citation intervenes, as shown below:

George Loffler confirms that "the unconscious carries the best of human thought and gives man great dignity, but it also has the dark side so that we cry, in the words of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, 'Hence, horrible shadow! Unreal mockery, hence'" (32).

INDENTING LONG QUOTATIONS

Set off long prose quotations of four lines or forty or more words by indenting 1 inch or 10 spaces, which is usually two clicks of the tab key. Do not enclose the indented material within quotation marks. If you quote only one paragraph or the beginning of one, do *not* indent the first line an extra five spaces. Maintain normal double spacing between your text and the quoted materials. Place the parenthetical citation *after* the final mark of punctuation. In the example below, the parenthetical citation might be a title to an Internet article rather than page numbers:

With the fast pace of the modern world, many young people fail to realize the simplicity of previous generations. Garrett Snow, director of Roots-Web Genealogy for the Upper Cumberland, commented on the need to understand and preserve family history, especially among those of the rising generations:

With the passing of time, it is easy to forget the many individuals who have left an indelible mark on our ever-changing society. With the passing of time, it is easy to forget that for every great figure in history, there were neighbors, friends, and parents who instilled the confidence in the individual so that they could make a useful and beneficial contribution to society. With the passing of time, it is easy to forget the contribution made by

our grandparents, great-grandparents, and forebears. The roll call of ancestors may not include figures of outstanding importance in history, yet this legacy is a record of men and women who lived active, useful lives, and who gave to their nation and their communities the best that was in them. ("Heritage")

Whether young or old, each person must understand that heritage is not just a time designated and set aside for a day, week, or month; it is an ongoing celebration of the heirlooms, honesty, and history that has been handed down in the written, oral, and photographic traditions of our families.

If you quote more than one paragraph, indent the first line of each paragraph an extra three (3) spaces or a quarter-inch. However, if the first sentence quoted does not begin a paragraph in the original source, do not indent it an extra three spaces.

Zigler makes this observation:

With many others, I am nevertheless optimistic that our nation will eventually display its inherent greatness and successfully correct the many ills that I have touched upon here.

Of course, much remains that could and should be done, including increased efforts in the area of family planning, the widespread implementation of Education for Parenthood programs, an increase in the availability of homemaker and child care services, and a reexamination of our commitment to doing what is in the best interest of every child in America. (42)

CITING POETRY

Quoting Two Lines of Poetry or Less

Incorporate short quotations of poetry (one or two lines) into your text.

In stanza 1 of Lord Byron's "She Walks in Beauty" (1814), the poet extends his physical description to describe the inward, divine, praiseworthy aspects of the woman. Beginning with an image of a dark, clear sky to set her beauty against, he values "All that's best of dark and bright / Meet in her aspect and her eyes" (lines 3-4). Thus, the woman who Byron is praising holds a "tender light" (5) between her outward beauty and the calm, soft image of her soul.

As the example demonstrates:

1. Set off the material with quotation marks.
2. Indicate separate lines by using a virgule (/) with a space before and after it.

3. Place line documentation within parentheses immediately following the quotation mark and inside the period. Do not use the abbreviations *l.* or *ll.*, which might be confused with page numbers; use *lines* initially to establish that the numbers represent lines of poetry, and thereafter use only the numbers.
4. Use Arabic numerals for books, parts, volumes, and chapters of works; acts, scenes, and lines of plays; and cantos, stanzas, and lines of poetry.

Quoting Three Lines of Poetry or More

Set off three or more lines of poetry by indenting 1 inch or 10 spaces, as shown below. Use double-spaced lines. A parenthetical citation to the lines of indented verse follows the last line of the quotation. If the parenthetical citation will not fit on the last line, place it on the next line, flush with the right margin of the poetry text.

The king cautions Prince Henry:

Thy place in council thou has rudely lost,
Which by thy younger brother is supplied,
And art almost an alien to the hearts
Of all the court and princes of my blood.

(3.2.32–35)

Refer to act, scene, and lines only after you have established Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 1* as the central topic of your study; otherwise, write (1H4 3.2.32–35). If you are citing from more than one play, always add an abbreviation for the play (1H4 1.1.15–18).

Indenting Turnovers for Long Lines of Poetry

When quoting a line of poetry that is too long for your right margin, indent the continuation line three spaces or a quarter-inch more than the greatest indentation.

Thomas Traherne opens his poem "Eden" with these lines:

A learned and a happy ignorance
Divided me
From all the vanity,
From all the sloth, care, pain, and sorrow that advance
The madness and the misery
Of men. No error, no distraction I

Saw soil the earth, or overcloud the sky. (lines 1–8)

Retaining Internal Quotations within a Block

While you should not use quotation marks around a block quotation, *do* retain any internal quotation marks:

With his sonnet “Spring,” Shakespeare playfully describes the cry of the cuckoo bird:

The cuckoo then, on every tree,
Mocks married men; for thus sings he, “Cuckoo!
Cuckoo, cuckoo!” O word of fear,
Unpleasing to a married ear! (524)

Providing Translations

When a quotation is run into the text, use double quotation marks for translations placed within parentheses but single quotations around a translation without the parentheses:

Chaucer’s setting is Spring, when “zephyrs (“west winds”) have breathed softly all about . . .” (line 5).

Chaucer’s setting is Spring, when “zephyrs ‘west winds’ have breathed softly all about . . .” (line 5).

Do not place quotation marks around quotations and translations set off from the text in a block. Place the block of translation below the block of poetry.

Ramon Magrans has translated this Federico García poem in a literal manner:

Alto pinar!
Cuatro palomas por el aire van.
Cuatro palomas

Vuelan y tornan

Llevan heridas

sus cuatro sombras

Bajo pinar!

Cuatro palomas en la tierra están.

Above the pine trees

four pigeons fly through the air.

Four pigeons

fly and turn around

Wounded, they carry

their four shadows.

Below the pine trees

four pigeons lie on the earth.

HANDLING QUOTATIONS FROM A PLAY

Set off from your text any dialog of two or more characters. Begin with the character's name, indented 1 inch and written in all capital letters. Follow the name with a period, and then start the character's lines of dialog. Indent subsequent lines of dialog an additional quarter-inch or three (3) spaces.

At the end of *Oedipus Rex*, Kreon chastises Oedipus, reminding him that he no longer has control over his own life nor that of his children.

KREON. Come now and leave your children.

OEDIPUS. No! Do not take them from me!

KREON. Think no longer

That you are in command here, but rather think

How, when you were, you served your own destruction.

ALTERING INITIAL CAPITALS IN QUOTED MATTER

In general, you should reproduce quoted materials exactly, yet one exception is permitted for logical reasons. Restrictive connectors, such as *that* and *because*, create restrictive clauses and eliminate a need for the comma. Without a comma, the capital letter is unnecessary. In the following example, "The," which is capitalized as the first word in the original sentence, is changed to lowercase because it continues the grammatical flow of the student's sentence.

Another writer argues that "the single greatest impediment to our improving the lives of America's children is the myth that we are a child-oriented society" (Zigler 39).

Otherwise, write:

Another writer argues, "The single greatest . . ."



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