Introducing and Integrating Quotes

In academic writing, a sentence typically cannot begin with a quotation. Make it clear for your reader who is writing or speaking the quote. The easiest way is to simply name the speaker and follow that by a verb.

*Write the following:* The text begins, “I have a large red zit on my forehead” (1). The speaker states, “I have a large red zit on my forehead” (1). Hamlet whines, “I have a large zit red on my forehead” (1).

*Do not write the following:* In Line 1 the author says “how do I love thee?” The author quotes “how do I love thee?” (Line 1)

You can also find an eloquent way to get into the quote or integrate the quote into your sentence. Make sure the quote fits into the grammar for your sentence because a quote cannot stand alone as its own sentence. Introduce the quote with a clause of your own making and follow your clause with a comma or a colon.

The speaker asks her lover, “How do I love thee?” (1). The speaker begins with a question: “How do I love thee?” (1). The speaker is aware of his imperfections, calling attention to his “large red zit” (1). The speaker illustrates the imperfection of human bodies: “I have a large red zit on my forehead” (1).

See [http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/marks/quotation.htm](http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/marks/quotation.htm) for more help with Quotation Marks.

**Provide Page or Line Numbers.** Note page or line numbers in parentheses in MLA style.

- For *prose*, provide page number if the lines are unnumbered. (1035)
- For *poetry*, provide line numbers. (35-36)
- For *plays*, provide act, scene, and line(s) in that order, separated by periods: Act.Scene.Line. (5.3.21-22).
  If you are quoting more than once from a particular scene, and that fact is perfectly clear, provide the act and scene numbers the first time (5.3.21-22) and then just use the line numbers for subsequent references (30-31).
  No act, as in *Faustus*? Just use Scene and Lines: (5.32). For a Prologue, just write (Prologue.4-5).

When you cite poetry, you need to include a slash (called a *virgule*) between lines. For example, for Queen Elizabeth’s “On Monsieur’s Departure” if you quote lines one and two, do it like this:

Elizabeth writes, “I grieve and dare not show my discontent, / I love and yet am forced to seem to hate” (1-2).

If you quote four or more lines of poetry, you need to set off the quote as a block quote. Indent the quote 1 inch from the left margin, eliminate the quote marks, continue to double space, and let each line of poetry have its own line. Like this:

Elizabeth writes,

I grieve and dare not show my discontent
I love and yet am forced to seem to hate,
I do, yet dare not say I ever meant,
I seem stark mute but inwardly do prate. (1-4)

If you are quoting three or more lines of prose (three lines across your page), then block quote it.
**Citing a Book**

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Collection*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Medium of Publication.


**Citing an Article in an Academic Journal**


**Citing a Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection**

Lastname, First name. “Title of Essay.” *Title of Collection*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Page range of entry. Medium of Publication.

To cite a John Donne poem, “The Good-Morrow” that appears on pages 1263-64 of the Norton Anthology, do this:


If you draw upon information from a footnote, you need to credit the editor of your book in the body of your paper:

Greenblatt notes that the “seven sleeper’s den” is a “cave in Ephesus where, according to legend, seven Christian youths hid from pagan persecutors and slept for 187 years” (1264).

And you need to give the editor a full entry on the Works Cited page.


**Citing a Dictionary**

 Works Cited


Use Double Spacing.
Indent second line of source 0.5 inches.
Alphabetize by last name.