HOW TO QUOTE POETRY

Quoting Three Lines or Fewer

When you are quoting three lines or fewer from a poem, you may incorporate the quotation into the body of your paragraph.

Tips for quoting up to three lines of poetry:

* Use slashes (/) to indicate line breaks within the poem
* Keep all punctuation intact as it appears in the poem
* Use quotation marks to denote the beginning and end of the quotation

**If you have included the name of the poet elsewhere in your paper, do not include the poet's name in your parenthetical citation. Instead, include the first significant word of the poem's title, followed by the line number(s).**

Example

Eliot immediately engages the reader with his use of the second person in the opening lines: "Let us go then, you and I / When the evening is spread out against the sky" ("Prufrock" 1-2).

**However, if you have mentioned the title of the poem in the sentences immediately before the quote, cite the line number only.**

Example

In his "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Eliot immediately engages the reader with his use of the second person in the opening lines: "Let us go then, you and I / When the evening is spread out against the sky" (1-2).

Quoting Four or More Lines

Tips for quoting four or more lines of poetry:

* Start the quotation on a new line.
* Indent each line one inch from the left margin of your paragraph.
* Preserve all punctuation, spacing, and line breaks exactly as they appear in the original text of the poem.
* Double-space between each line.
* Do not use quotation marks (unless they are used in the poem).

Example

Yeats, an Irish nationalist himself, knew several of the Easter Monday rebels personally, and he mentions them by name in his poem. He even notes his former nemesis, Major John MacBride. MacBride was briefly married to Yeats's love, Maude Gonne. Though he acknowledges MacBride's heroism, he does so begrudgingly:

         A drunken, vainglorious lout

         He had done most bitter wrong

         To some who are near my heart

         Yet I number him in the song; ("Easter" 31-34)

MLA CITATION PAGE

Poem Accessed on a Web Site

Cite the poem as a page or article on a web site.

**Example:**



**A Page on a Web Site**

For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by the information covered above for entire Web sites. Remember to use *n.p.* if no publisher name is available and *n.d.* if no publishing date is given.

"Athelete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*. WebMD, 25 September 2014. Web. 6 July 2015.

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*. Demand Media, n.d. Web. 6 July 2015.

**An Article in an Online Scholarly Journal**

For all online scholarly journals, provide the author(s) name(s), the name of the article in quotation marks, the title of the publication in italics, all volume and issue numbers, and the year of publication.

**Article in an Online-only Scholarly Journal**

MLA requires a page range for articles that appear in Scholarly Journals. If the journal you are citing appears exclusively in an online format (i.e. there is no corresponding print publication) that does not make use of page numbers, use the abbreviation *n. pag.* to denote that there is no pagination for the publication.

Dolby, Nadine. “Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions.” *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal* 6.2 (2008): n. pag. Web. 20 May 2009.

**Article in an Online Scholarly Journal That Also Appears in Print**

Cite articles in online scholarly journals that also appear in print as you would a scholarly journal in print, including the page range of the article. Provide the medium of publication that you used (in this case, *Web*) and the date of access.

Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 6.6 (2000): 595-600. Web. 8 Feb. 2009.

**An Article from an Online Database (or Other Electronic Subscription Service)**

Cite articles from online databases (e.g. LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR, ScienceDirect) and other subscription services just as you would print sources. Since these articles usually come from periodicals, be sure to consult the appropriate sections of the Works Cited: Periodicals page, which you can access via its link at the bottom of this page. In addition to this information, provide the title of the database italicized, the medium of publication, and the date of access.

**Note**: Previous editions of the MLA Style Manual required information about the subscribing institution (name and location). This information is no longer required by MLA.

Junge, Wolfgang, and Nathan Nelson. “Nature's Rotary Electromotors.”*Science* 29 Apr. 2005: 642-44. *Science Online*. Web. 5 Mar. 2009.

Langhamer, Claire. “Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England.” *Historical Journal* 50.1 (2007): 173-96. *ProQuest*. Web. 27 May 2009.