**Citing Poetry in the Text of Your Paper (Parenthetical Documentation)**

Because poems are often reprinted in various editions and anthologies, **they are cited by line number rather than by page number**

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).** This is especially important if you are quoting more than one poem by the same author in your paper.

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 preceding you quotation, you can 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).

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)

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| **Direct quote from one author**:  “Like so many of my generation in graduate school, I had turned to literature as a kind of substitute for formal religion, which no longer fed my soul, or for therapy, which I could not afford” (O’Reilley para 15). |
| **Direct quote with the author’s name referenced in the text**:  O’Reilley asserts, “Like so many of my generation in graduate school, I had turned to literature as a kind of substitute for formal religion, which no longer fed my soul, or for therapy, which I could not afford” ( para 15). |
| **Two Quotes from the same author used in succession:**  Romeo and Juliet presents an opposition between two worlds: "the world of the everyday," associated with the adults in the play, and "the world of romance," associated with the two lovers (Zender 138). Romeo and Juliet's language of love nevertheless becomes "fully responsive to the tang of actuality" (141). |
| **Work by more two or three authors:**  Very little is now known about how dolphins and whales communicate (Akmajian, Demers, and Harnish 36). |
| **Citing a quotation from someone else in a source:**  Sophia Loren who visited one of these camps wrote, “I went around in a sick daze for hours after witnessing unimaginable suffering” (qtd. In Stein 219). |
| **Citation of more than one page:**  French points out that “The Grapes of Wrath has been applauded throughout the world since its publication, and remains one of the greatest works of American literature because of its representation of the struggle to reach the American Dream” (147-148). |
| **Cite only the title of the article when referencing an encyclopedia, reference work, or when the article is by an anonymous writer.**  One cause of the Dust Bowl was misuse of the land (“Dust Bowl”). |
| **Cite and format long quotes of more than four lines by brining in the margins on either side to set off the quotation the following way:**  Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:  “They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or  even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put  it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone  on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing  his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he  found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made  as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in  recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent  out of the house“ (Bronte 78).  It is a long standing tradition of Romantic era literature to portray the upper class as snobbish. |
| **Special note regarding electronic sources**. If the internet site doesn’t have page numbers, or a menu of page numbers at the bottom of the page, the rule is to cite paragraph number instead of page: (para 2). All other rules pertaining to citing a text source apply to web-page based documents. |