

Tracking Themes and Using Evidence in Literary Analysis **MLA Citation and Integration of Quotes**

The text suggests that the following is a list of possible themes revealed in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*:

1. The Forcefulness of Love
2. Love as a Cause of Violence
3. The Inevitability of Fate
4. The Individual Versus Society

Track the theme you've been assigned and keep a running list of textual evidence that supports this theme at work in the play.

- There should be a strong and critical selection of evidence, with most students collecting 5-15 good quotes/passages that helps them support their theme.
- For each piece of evidence, cite it according to the MLA guidelines for parenthetical citations in literary analysis.
 - For plays, this will require a parenthetical citation of the act, scene, and line number(s) from the play. (III.i.140-142)
 - See the very last section (as well as the section at the end of this document) of the CHS LIC *Format and Documentation Guide* for help with this:
http://www.camas.wednet.edu/chs/lic/source_doc.pdf

For each entry, include the following components:

- Cx:
 - What's the context of the quote? How would you quickly "set it up" so the reader understands its place in the plot and its larger context in the play?
- Cd:
 - The actual quote you're using.
- Cm:
 - The commentary and analysis of how this supports the "thesis", which says, essentially, that X theme is evident in the play.

For the final step in this process, we will work on developing body paragraphs that model good organization and processing of literary analysis. To be clear, we will follow the TS, Cx, Cd, Cm, etc. formula.

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Use the following guide as a tool to help you to correctly integrate and punctuate quotes in a variety of ways. The end goal in this assignment, besides selection and use of good evidence, is correct and varied integration of quotes, thus giving you better sentence fluency in your writing.

Do you misuse quotes in your paper?

- IF you simply plug in a quotation because you think it's about time you used one
- IF you are aiming for a certain number of citations in your paper
- IF your paper is one long string of quotations interspersed with your brief comments
 - THEN you are probably misusing quotations.

How should I use quotes in my paper?

- Use quotations to serve as examples of your main points and observations.
- Remember that a quotation by itself has little significance.
 - It needs your commentary to provide context and meaning.
 - In general, your commentary on anything you quote should be longer than the quotation itself.

- Choose only important material that effectively supports your point.
- Choose quotations that provide significant information about character or the author's main idea
 - Don't use quotations that simply advance the plot.
- Select quotations carefully and purposefully for a research paper or literary analysis:
 - to illustrate or explain an opinion or idea
 - to assert a fact
 - to provide authority for an assertion you have made
 - to provide a focal point
 - to show many opinions

What are some examples of ways I can “weave” quotes into my paper and analysis?

- Use an indirect statement with "that."
 - Margaret Mead feels that "the use of marriage contracts may reduce the divorce rate" (9).
- Blend your lead-in and quotation.
 - Knight views the symbolism in Jones' play as a "creation and destruction pattern" (164).
- Use a complete sentence lead-in. Follow with a colon and two spaces before the quotation.
 - Edith Hamilton describes Hera perfectly: "She was the protector of marriage, and married women were her particular care" (223).
 - Again the main character hears the words spoken by his grandfather: "I never told you, but our life is a war" (154).
- Use an introductory phrase or clause.
 - According to Clyde Jones, "Frost revives the themes of the early nineteenth-century romantics" (112).
 - As the grandfather explained, "...life is a war" (154).
- Split the quotation.
 - "A fully articulated pastoral idea of America," claims Leo Marx, "did not emerge until the end of the eighteenth century" (89).
- Use the author's name and/or his authority to introduce quotations from secondary sources.
 - Frank Kermode, a prominent critic, claims that Hamlet "is a delaying revenger" (1138).

How should I properly punctuate the quotes in my paper?

- Use an ellipsis (. . .) to indicate material omitted from the quotation.
 - To indicate omitted material within a sentence, use three periods with a space before and after each period.
 - Hamlet tells Ophelia, "you jig and amble . . . and make your wantonness your ignorance" (III.i.140-142).
- Use a comma for a brief, informal, or grammatically incomplete introduction.
 - Prufrock thinks, "I am no prophet--and here's no great matter" (line 37).
- Use a colon to separate your own complete sentence lead-ins from quotations.
- Use an ellipsis (. . .) to indicate material omitted from the quotation.
 - To indicate omitted material within a sentence, use three periods with a space before and after each period.
 - Hamlet tells Ophelia, "you jig and amble . . . and make your wantonness your ignorance" (III.i.140-142).
 - To indicate material omitted at the end of your sentence, put a period with no space in front and then follow with three spaced periods.
 - Hawthorn writes that "Robin gazed with dismay and astonishment.... The effect was as if of two individual devils, a fiend of fire and a fiend of darkness, had united themselves to form this infernal visage" (887).
- If using an ellipsis and a parenthetical page reference at the end of a sentence, put the fourth period after the parentheses.
 - According to Anne Barton, the last part of A Midsummer Night's Dream shows "the relationship between art and life . . ." (219).
- Use brackets [] to indicate editorial changes that you must make to clarify the quotation or improve the grammatical structure of your sentence.
 - "She looked carefully for the place where [Elizabeth] had entered the garden" (65).

- Flaubert says that "she [has] an excess of energy" (97).
- Reproduce your source exactly in a quotation.
 - Use the word [sic] immediately after a problem word or obvious mistake.
 - "There were no pieces of strong [sic] around the boxes," one witness wrote.
- Introduce long quotations with a complete sentence followed by a colon.
 - Use the same line spacing for your quotation that you use for the rest of the paper.
 - Indent ten spaces from the left margin.
 - A long quotation is one with more than four lines of prose or more than three lines of poetry.
 - no quote marks needed.
 - This type of quoting, called "block quote", should be used very sparingly.
- Use double quotation marks for a quotation and single quotation marks for an inner quotation.
 - After his interview with Hester, Dimmesdale sinks into self-doubt: "'Have I then sold myself,' thought the minister, 'to the fiend whom . . . this velveteen old hag has chosen for her prince and master!'" (237)
 - Notice that no period follows the page reference because the inside quotation ends with an exclamation mark.
- Always put colons and semicolons outside quotation marks.
 - The senator announced, "I will not seek re-election"; then he left the room.
- Always put periods and commas inside quotation marks, except when there is a parenthetical documentation.
 - Though Thoreau wrote that most men "lead lives of quiet desperation" (98), much of his book about Walden Pond "expresses joy" (96).
 - Notice that when you have two quotations from different pages within the same sentence, you place the first parenthetical reference immediately after the quoted material.
- Put other marks of punctuation (question marks, dashes, exclamation points) inside when they are part of the quoted material, outside when they are not.
- When a question mark or exclamation point goes inside the quotation, no end punctuation follows the parenthetical reference.
 - When King Hamlet's ghost reveals that he was killed by Claudius, young Hamlet exclaims, "O my prophetic soul!" (I.v.40)
 - What are the implications of Hamlet's statement, "To be, or not to be" (III.i.55)?
- Use a slash (/) with a space before and after the mark to indicate line division in poetry when quoting three lines or fewer.
 - In "Harlem" by Langston Hughes, the speaker asks, "What happens to a dream deferred? / Does it dry up / like a raisin in the sun?" (lines 1-3)
- When the word that introduces a quotation, use no comma after it and no capital to start the quotation unless it begins with a proper noun.
 - In the closing lines, the speaker suggests that "it just sags like a heavy loads" (lines 9-10).