

Quick Citation Guide

1) Your goal is to reproduce the quote precisely and exactly. Do not make typos, or cite the wrong line numbers, or forget words. Mistakes suggest to the person grading your paper that you are careless and have not looked carefully at the quotation.

2) For the purposes of this class, you do not need a works cited page unless you quote from a text that is not on the syllabus. Simply cite the author's name and the page number in parentheses. When quoting verse, also include the line number/s after a period (see the example below).

3) Decide whether what you are quoting is VERSE or PROSE. For verse, line breaks are very important, so you need to reproduce the quote with a "/" representing the break. For example:

With the frustrated expression, "Who list her hunt I put him out of doubt, / As well as I may spend his time in vain" (Wyatt 698.9-10), the speaker invites the reader to identify with his troubles and to be in on the joke.

but you can ignore line breaks when quoting prose:

Peter Giles suggests that "There is no mortal alive today who can give you such an account of unknown peoples and lands, a subject about which I know you are always most greedy to hear" (More 720), drawing attention to our own greed as readers to know about the unknown.

4) Use a block quote for text that runs across four or more lines. Set it apart by indenting it. If you quote from a passage of verse, reproduce the line breaks. If you quote from a passage of prose that has paragraph breaks or quotation marks, reproduce them:

Peter Giles draws attention to our own greed as readers to know about the unknown:

"There is no mortal alive today who can give you such an account of unknown peoples and lands, a subject about which I know you are always most greedy to hear."

"Well, then," said I, "my guess was not a bad one. The moment I saw him, I was sure he was a ship's captain."

"But you are quite mistaken," said [Giles], "for his sailing has not been like that of Palinurus but that of Ulysses or, rather, of Plato." (More 720)

Humanism becomes a way of understanding other cultures according to one's own preconceptions.

5) Notice above that you can use brackets ([Giles] takes the place of "he" in the quote) to clarify the context (but don't overuse them).

6) In American English, punctuation normally goes inside quotation marks.