

EMBEDDING QUOTATIONS

1. Which of the following lines taken from page 88 of *Looking for Alaska*, a novel by John Green, has proper M.L.A. in-text citation formatting?

- A. "If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane." (Green, 88)
- B. "If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane" (Green, 88).
- C. "If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane" (Green 88).
- D. "If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane." (Green, page 88)
- E. "If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane" (Green, page 88).



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Instead, the period is placed at the end of the page citation, outside of the parentheses.

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Then, include those ending marks within the quote, but still use the period at the very end of the citation.

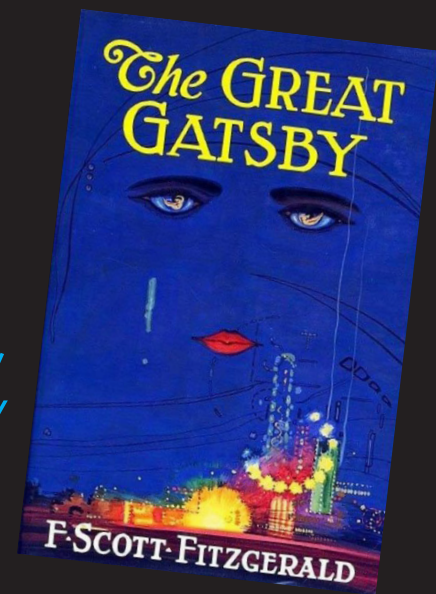
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Like this:

“What’s the matter, Nick? Do you object to shaking hands with me?” (Fitzgerald 179).

Quote taken from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s masterpiece,
The Great Gatsby



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Like this:

“What’s the matter, Nick? Do you object to shaking hands with me?” (Fitzgerald 179).

For clarity, keep this question mark.



Also include this period.



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For example, Green writes, "If people were like rain..."

- Doesn't give enough background
- Assumes the reader knows the story
- Sounds clunky/abrupt/mechanical
- All quotes need a transition of some sort and a frame/background to explain what's happening in the quote


A better frame:

For example, Miles “Pudge” Halter, the story’s protagonist, is drawn to the energetic force of Alaska, a girl at his new school, and explains, “If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane” (Green 88).

Now the reader has a better understanding of what’s happening in the story. As you write, always assume the reader of your essay **has not read** the original texts you are discussing.

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Then, develop this idea by symbolically connecting the girl to the storm – both cause people to be awe-struck, but both also cause devastating destruction.

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Past tense

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4. Write two present-tense verbs:

5. Write two past-tense verbs:

4. Write two present-tense verbs:

argues

believes

cautions

denies

examines

5. Write two past-tense verbs:

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6. Should you include quoted material from your source/s in your introductory paragraph?
Why or why not?

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NO!

Quoted material from sources belongs in body paragraphs, where it can be analyzed or discussed.

Resist the urge to launch your essay with a quote from the book you're about to discuss or the research you're about to present. The reader wants to hear **your** voice as the essay begins.

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Explain your answer.

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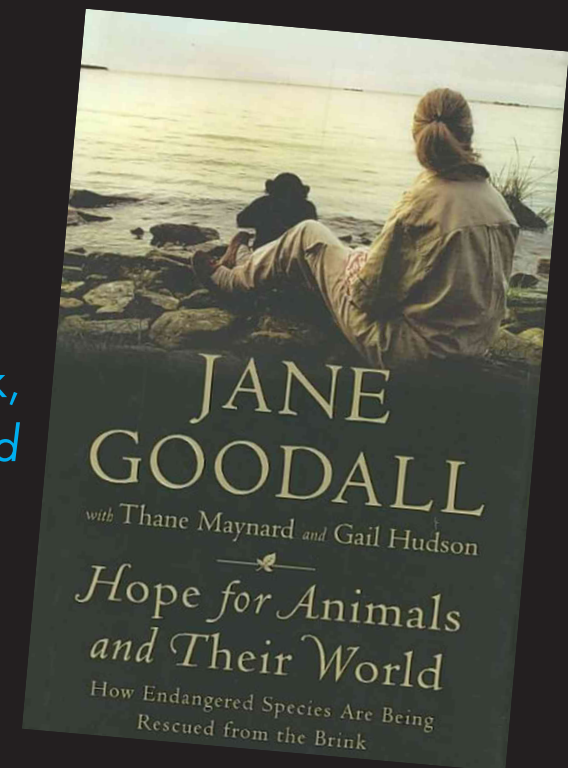
These edits must be marked with brackets:

[]

So, let's say you want to use this quote in a paper about endangered species:

"If there are not enough young to balance deaths, the end of the species is inevitable."

Quote taken from Jane Goodall's non-fiction book,
Hope for Animals and Their World



“If there are not enough young to balance deaths, the end of the species is inevitable” (Goodall 83).

An embedded quote in a body paragraph sentence with minor edits, might look like this:



Goodall paints a dire picture, reminding the reader that without “enough young to balance deaths, the end of the [Brown Spider Monkey] is inevitable” (Goodall 83).




NEVER alter the meaning of the original text with an edit.

Make sure your usage of all quoted and paraphrased material is true to the original author's intent.

8. If a quote that you want to use in your essay is longer than four lines, what should you do?

First, reconsider whether you want to actually use that full quote. It's far better to boil down whatever you find interesting about that quote to the essential elements that you want to analyze/discuss and just paraphrase the rest.



Think more text in your paragraph impresses your teacher and makes you seem smart? You're wrong.

If you're still committed to filling your page with a lengthy quote, you'll need to follow special rules as you place it in your body paragraph:

- Place quote in a free-standing block of text
- Omit quotation marks
- Indent the entire quote one inch from the margin
- Maintain double-spacing
- Parenthetical citation comes **after** the closing punctuation mark

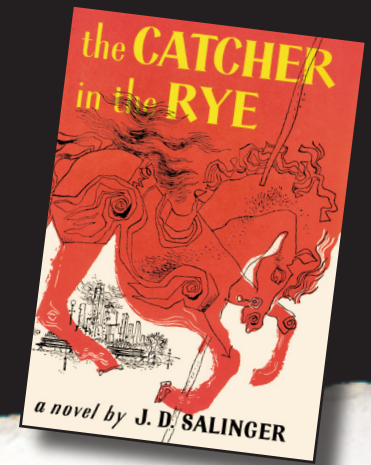
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Complicated?

Nah, it just looks like this:

An example of a block quotation:



Pretend that this is part of the body paragraph of your essay on J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. You're making an important point in this section and you've provided enough background so the reader isn't confused about the text you're going to present here:

What really knocks me out is a book that, when you're all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it. That doesn't happen much, though. (Salinger 18)

The essay then continues with the standard margins once again. Notice that the indentations are one inch on both the left and right side. Also, the entire essay needs to be double-spaced.

Any questions?

Review your notes and the handout as you build your next body paragraph

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