

## INCORPORATING QUOTES IN MLA

### INTEGRATE ALL YOUR QUOTES (no “floating quotes”)

- FLOATING QUOTE: Orwell took his gun to shoot the elephant. “I knew I ought not to shoot the elephant” (Orwell, “Shooting” 734).
  - *Easy way to avoid this = don’t start a sentence with quotation marks.*
- INTEGRATED: Orwell took his gun to shoot the elephant, even though he “knew [he] ought not to shoot the elephant” (Orwell, “Shooting” 734).
  - *Notice you can use [brackets] to change the original wording to make it flow better, if you need to. Only do this when it’s absolutely necessary, however.*
  - *You may also use ellipses [...] if you need to omit part of a quote. Again, though, try to do this only when it’s absolutely necessary.*

### BLOCK QUOTES:

When your quote is longer than four lines on the page (3 lines for poetry), you need to put it in a block quote. Start typing it on a new line and indent the entire quote. You still need to lead into the quote like normal. So, for example, one author says,

This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. This is a really long quote. (Orwell #)

Then you just continue on where you left off, like this, talking about the quote and what it means and stuff. Notice that you don’t need to put any quotation marks around block quotes. Generally you should try to avoid having too many block quotes, or including block quotes that are extremely long (e.g. half the page). When you use quotes in your paper, only include the parts of the quote that are absolutely necessary for you to make your point. If there is a lot of information from a source that you want to include, you should probably paraphrase or summarize it rather than quoting it directly.