

Embedded Quotes (and parenthetical citations)

- Follow MLA guidelines (see MLA guidelines)
- If the essay is referencing a single work that you have identified in your introduction, all you need is the appropriate page number (or line number for poems) following the quote:
 - As a gift the “gold hilt was handed over to the old lord, a relic from long ago for the venerable ruler” (1677-1679).
- The format for plays will usually include act and scene and line number
 - Macbeth does not have time to mourn his wife’s death and wishes “she should have died hereafter” (5.5.17).
- When referencing more than one work in your essay and/or quoting more than one source, you must list the first word (often an author’s last name when known) from the works cited page entry followed by the page number or line number:
 - Most writers during the Romantic period viewed mankind as “naturally good, but corrupted by society” (Pfordresher 423). Mary Shelley certainly shared that view and illustrates it in Frankenstein. The creature even describes himself as a “fallen angel” driven from society because of prejudices (Shelley 84).
- Periods always **FOLLOW** the end parenthesis.
- Embedded quotes should usually be short and to the point (generally no longer than 2-3 lines)
- If an embedded quote is longer than 4 lines, it must be formatted differently (see MLA guidelines)
- If you use quotes from more than 1 page (or line) in the same sentence, put the documentation at the end of the sentence in the order used in the sentence, separated by a semi-colon:
 - The creature even describes himself as a “fallen angel” who is forced into seclusion because of the “accumulation of anguish” that life has become for him (84; 83).
- If the quotes are sequential but not used in their entirety, use an ellipsis (...) to identify the omission.
 - The creature even describes himself as a creature with an “accumulation of anguish... a fallen angel” who is forced into seclusion (83-84).
- If you change or add something to a quote for clarification of tense/plurality purposes, use brackets ([]) to identify the material you added, altered, or clarified.
 - The creature even describes himself as a “fallen angel [with and] accumulation of anguish” in his seclusion (84; 83).
- Notice that embedded quotes do not have to be set off by commas and do not always need ellipsis (...) at the beginning or ending. Only use the ellipsis if you are omitting a portion of the quote. The mark of a good embedded quote is when you can read it aloud to someone, and he/she won’t notice where your words end and the quote begins.
- When embedding quotes, make sure your use of the quotes **ALWAYS** lines up with the **AUTHOR’S INTENT**. In other words, don’t manipulate the quote in a way that changes the meaning.