

## Quote Integration (MLA Format)

*Quote only words, phrases, lines, and passages that are particularly interesting, vivid, unusual, or apt, and keep all quotations as brief as possible. Overquotation can bore your readers and might lead them to conclude that you are neither an original thinker nor a skillful writer.*

1. *If a prose quotation runs no more than four lines and requires no special emphasis, put it in quotation marks and incorporate it into the text. If a quotation ending a sentence requires a parenthetical reference, place the sentence period after the reference.*

In addition to describing the soldiers as “human animals” (56), Paul captures how mechanized the soldiers are as he describes how in the marching column, “the figures resolve themselves into a block, individuals are no longer recognizable, the dark wedge presses onward, fantastically topped by the heads and the weapons floating on the milky pool. A column—not men at all” (57).

2. *If quoting narration with only one direct speaker’s dialogue, use single quotation marks to indicate the original quotation marks. (If quoting only one direct speaker’s dialogue without narration, do not use single quotation marks.)*

Paul, furious with Himmelstoss’s cowardice, yells, “‘You lump, will you get out—you hound, you skunk, sneak out of it, would you?’ His eye becomes glassy, I knock his head against the wall . . .” (132).

3. *Whenever you wish to omit a word, a phrase, a sentence, or more from a quoted passage, you should be guided by two principles: fairness to the author quoted and the grammatical integrity of your writing. Use ellipsis when omitting words/phrases/sentences from the original text.*
  - *use three periods with a space before each and after the last for an ellipsis within a sentence*
  - *if a parenthetical reference follows the ellipsis at the end of your sentence, use three periods with a space before each, and place the sentence period after the final parenthesis*
  - *in a quotation of more than one sentence, an ellipsis in the middle can indicate the omission of any amount of text (when omitting a sentence or moving from the middle of one sentence to the end of another, use four periods with a space after each); remember that grammatically complete sentences must both precede and follow the four periods*

Though there is talk of peace, Paul reflects that it is too late for his generation, “Now if we go back we will be weary, broken, burnt out, rootless, and without hope. . . . We will be superfluous even to ourselves. . .” (294).

4. *Occasionally, you may decide that a quotation will be unclear or confusing to your reader unless you provide supplementary information. Distinguish these alterations from the original, usually putting them in square brackets within the quotation.*

He claimed he could provide “hundreds of examples [of court decisions] to illustrate the historical tension between church and state.”

5. *If a prose quotation is more than four typed lines (or if you quote more than one direct speaker):*
- *set it off from your text by beginning a new line, indenting one inch from the left margin*
  - *type it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks*
  - *introduce the quotation smoothly with the context followed by a colon (however, sometimes the context may require different punctuation or none at all)*
  - *do not indent the first line more than the rest if you quote only a single paragraph or part of one*
  - *indent the first line of each paragraph an additional quarter inch if you quote two or more paragraphs (if the first sentence quoted does not begin a paragraph in the source, however, do not indent it the additional amount; indent only the first lines of the successive paragraphs)*
  - *the parenthetical reference to the page number/source follows the last line of the quotation*

Though there is talk of peace, Paul reflects that it is too late for his generation:

Had we returned home in 1916, out of the suffering and strength of our experience we might have unleashed a storm. Now if we go back we will be weary, broken, burnt out, rootless, and without hope. We will not be able to find our way any more.

And men will not understand us—for the generation that grew up before us, though it has passed these years with us already and had a home and a calling; now it will return to its old occupations, and the war will be forgotten—and the generation that has grown up after us will be strange to us and push us aside. We will be superfluous even to ourselves, we will grow older, a few will adapt themselves, some others will merely submit, and most will be bewildered; --the years will pass by and in the end we shall fall into ruin. (294)

The years of intense suffering have sapped Paul of all hope and ability to live, and he realizes that he is “superfluous.”

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Paul wants to protect Kemmerich’s mother from the truth when she interrogates him:

“Will you swear it?”

“Yes.”

“By everything that is sacred to you?”

Good God, what is there that is sacred to me? –such things change pretty quickly with us.

“Yes, he died at once.” (181)