

Your Shakespeare essay: QUOTATIONS

Integrate quotations seamlessly into your essay.

Never use the phrase, "this quote says" or "this quote means". Never refer to it as a quotation. Simply integrate it. Your task is to prove your thesis, and use the words of characters to convince your reader of the validity of your points.

Choose words, phrases, or lines, that are particularly **supportive** of your point. The **accuracy** of quotations is extremely important. They must be reproduced exactly like the original source. There must be no changes whatsoever in the spelling, capitalization or punctuation unless you indicate this with square brackets.

- You must construct a clear, grammatically correct sentence which **introduces** the quotation. (Think about the context: who is speaking, and to whom, what has happened or is about to happen.)
- When you quote more than one line, use a **slash** with a space on each side (/) to separate them.
- Note: The **parenthetical reference** for the line(s) is placed at the end of the quotation and followed by a period.

Example:

Macbeth is becoming more confident and he plans the murder of Banquo without consulting his wife. When ~~she~~ asks him about his plans, ~~he~~ replies, "Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck, / Till thou applaud the deed (3.2.50). She has set him on his ambitious course, but now he makes his own decisions.

- Do not bring in a quotation without an introduction. See the following example of inserting a quotation with no clear introduction.

Example:

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth both hesitate to commit the murder of Duncan. "Had he not resembled / My father as he slept, I had done't." (2.2.16-17) Macbeth has forgotten to leave the daggers at the scene of the crime.