

Quotations

Note that for Humanities we single-space indented quotations, which is an exception to the rule.

- 1) Some examples of proper prose quotation format:
 - a) For shorter, embedded quotations:
 - i) Job is described as "blameless and upright, one who feared God, and turned away from evil" (Job 1:1).
 - ii) Thucydides cites the plague as a primary cause of social and political breakdown in Athens, when he says, "Men, not knowing what would happen next to them, became indifferent to every rule of religion or of law" (The Peloponnesian War, p. 155).

- b) For longer, indented quotations:

- i) In the second creation story in Genesis, the biblical author tells us:

The Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

(2:7-8)

- ii) When Socrates talks to the jury after they have decided on the death penalty for him, he speaks optimistically, according to Plato:

You too, gentlemen of the jury, must look forward to death with confidence, and fix your minds on this one belief, which is certain: that nothing can harm a good man either in life or after death, and his fortunes are not a matter of indifference to the gods.

(Apology, p. 76)

- 2) Some examples of proper poetry quotation format:

- a) For shorter, embedded quotations:

- i) Creon expresses a belief in personal male superiority when he says, "When I am alive no woman shall rule" (Antigone, 1.578)

Consistency is the key. You may not need to include the title of a work if you are quoting from only one text throughout your paper. Alternative parenthetical notations for the above sentence would be (A., 1. 578) or (578).

- ii) Aeneas recalls how the horse, "fat with weapons" (Aeneid, II, 328), was rolled into the city.
 - iii) Anger causes Achilles to be indecisive: "Within / his shaggy breast the heart was divided two ways, pondering / whether to draw from beside his thigh the sharp sword" (Iliad, I, ll. 188-190)

Notice: that you must maintain the integrity of the poetic line as printed on the page. The slash indicates the end of the line.

- b) For longer, indented quotations:

- i) Laocoon cries out:

Do you

believe the enemy have sailed away

believe the enemy have sailed away?

**Or think that any Grecian gifts are free
of craft? Is this the way Ulysses acts?**

.....

I fear the Greeks, even when they bring gifts.

(A., II, 60-70)

Notice several things:

- 1) Use no quotation marks before and after indented quotations.
- 2) Indent ten spaces from left margin.
- 3) One line of evenly spaced periods indicates that one or more lines of poetry have been omitted.
- 4) The parenthetical notation is placed on a line below and to the right.
- 5) If what you're quoting begins in the middle of the line, put the first quoted word in the middle of the first line of your indented quotation.
- 6) The slash is used only in embedded quotations, not in indented ones.
 - a. When Aeneas recognizes his mother, he exclaims,

Why do you [Venus] mock your son . . .
 . . . with these lying apparitions?
Why can't I ever join you, hand to hand,
to hear, to answer you with honest words?

(A., I, 581-84)

Notice: (1) that a quotation may be introduced either by a comma or by a colon, and (2) that brackets are used to clarify something that readers would not otherwise understand.