



Quoting and Citing Poetry (MLA)

(Material is drawn from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th Edition.)

In-Text Citations

- **Quotations of fewer than three lines**
 - Put quotation marks around the text that is being quoted.
 - If quoting more than one line, use a slash with a space on each side to separate the lines.
 - Place the parenthetical reference, the line number or numbers, after the closing quotation mark and before the period.

Example:

Reflecting on the “incident” in Baltimore, Cullen concludes, “Of all the things that happened there / That’s all that I remember” (11-12).

- **Quotations of more than three lines**
 - Begin the quotation on a new line one inch from the left margin and double space between lines.
 - Do not use quotation marks.
 - Place the parenthetical reference after the punctuation of the last line of the quoted verse.
 - If the parenthetical reference does not fit on the last line, place it on a new line flush with the right margin.
 - If quoting part of a verse, the line should begin where it is in the original. Do not start at the left margin if the part being quoted is in the middle or right of the line.

Example:

Elizabeth Bishop’s “In the Waiting Room” is rich in evocative detail:

It was winter. It got dark
early. The waiting room
was full of grown-up people,
arctics and overcoats,
lamps and magazines. (6-10)