



Block Quotations (MLA Format)

Tips for using block quotes:

- Set up a block quotation with your own words
- Do not use quotation marks at the beginning or end of the quote- the indentation indicates that it is a quote.
- Place parenthetical citation according to your style guide (usually after the period of the last sentence of the quote).
- Follow up a block quote with your own words.

Prose:

When you quote more than four typed lines of prose, set off the quotation by indenting it one inch (or ten spaces) from the left margin and type it double-spaced. Long quotations should be introduced by an informative sentence, usually followed by a colon. Quotation marks are unnecessary because the format tells readers that the words are taken word-for-word from the source.

Example:

When Aubrey is finally able to recognize the danger of Lord Ruthven's return to life, he recognizes his own implications in keeping his former companion's secret. Yet when he calms himself enough to consider his choices, he despairs that he will be able to do nothing to prevent Ruthven's path of destruction and feels trapped by circumstances:

The more he thought, the more he was be wildered. His oath startled him;- was he then to allow this monster to roam, bearing ruin upon his breath, amidst all he held dear, and not avert its progress? His very sister might be touched by him. But even if he were to break his oath, and disclose his suspicions, who would believe him? (Polidori 20)

Aubrey understanding that he is also implicated in Ruthven's actions if he does not speak, nonetheless feels bizarrely compelled by the "oath" he promised his one time traveling companion and friend.

Poetry:

When you quote more than three lines of poetry, set off the quotation by indenting it one inch (or ten spaces) from the left margin.

Example:

Joel concludes his song with a stanza that shows how the speaker has come to some type of understanding:

We all end in the ocean
We all start in the streams
We're all carried along
By the river of dreams. (42-45)

Although there is still some ambiguity in the conclusion, at least the speaker has discovered where his journey through the unconscious ends, where it starts, and how it affects our lives.

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