

MLA Citation Guide

#1 - **If your quotation is 4 lines or less**, it must be integrated into the body of your text. Use double quotation marks. The quote should weave in and out seamlessly from the body of the text. It doesn't say "this quote means" or "I found a good quote that" – your words and the quote should work as one. End punctuation comes after the reference, unless it's part of the quote such as an exclamation point.

#2 – **If your quote is longer than 4 lines**, then you maintain your line spacing, and indent the entire quotation 1 inch from the margin of the paper (so 2 inches from edge of sheet of paper). Usually you lead into this quote as well and may use a comma , or a colon : before you begin the quote. The quote should follow with your sentence structure, so there may even be a period. DO NOT use quotation marks, unless there is a quote within the quote. The parenthetical reference comes after the period.

#3 – **Quotes within quotes** must be indicated using single quotation marks ‘ ’.

#4 - **Use brackets []** to show that you added or changed a word to work with the pronoun, verb tense, sentence structure of your sentence.

#5 - **Use ellipsis points ...** to show that you cut words or entire sections of text. This allows you to maintain cohesion and splice together the quotation which best illustrates your point. Do NOT put these in brackets!

#6 – **Use (sic)** to indicate after a misspelled word that it was spelled like that in the original text.

#7 – **Use backslash /** with a space before and after, to indicate the end of a line in verse (poetry and song lyrics) because quotations show the text as it appears published, you can't go around changing the formatting of what the author actually wrote. If your quote is longer than 4 lines of poetry you follow rule #2 and indent and show the lines as they actually appear in print, i.e., like the original poem. For example, from the poem "It's Dangerous to Read Newspapers" by Margaret Atwood, "I am the cause, I am a stockpile of chemical / toys, my body / is a deadly gadget" (lines 16-18) OR

I am the cause, I am a stockpile of chemical
toys, my body
is a deadly gadget
I reach out in love, my hands are guns,
my good intentions are completely lethal (lines 16-20)

#8 – Title referencing

The first word and all main words in a title are to begin with a capital letter, e.g., *The Catcher in the Rye*. All major titles in and of themselves and anthologies are to be *italicized* OR underlined. All texts which show up in other texts are cited in "quotation marks".

"In quotation marks"	<i>Italicized</i> OR <u>underlined</u>
Songs	Album
Poems	Anthology
Short stories	Anthology
Articles, essays, news reports,	Magazine, newspaper, research journal, anthology
TV episode	TV show
	Novels & books
	Plays
	Movies & documentaries

Gr. 9 student group literary essay

Everyone has to have the strength to let others make their own decisions, even if it means losing them. This means that people shouldn't let their own needs or fear of losing them or their own insecurities hold back their friends or family members; it's selfish because they will never be able to express themselves unless they are given the space and allowed to excel to their maximum potential.

The short story "Wild to the Wild" by Sam Shepard is about three friends and their relationship to a little wolf cub. In letting the cub go back to the wild, they also learn that friendship is sometimes about letting go and going one's own way. Shepard writes, "He gave a little whine, then turned and loped off away from us down the track, dragging the chain behind him. Me and Mitchell just stood and watched him run off into the night. We never called out to him" (27). The boys allowed the wolf to make his own decision, even if it meant that they would never see him again. It's the same for families, when children grow up and it's time for them to move on in life, parents have to be respectful of their decisions and allow them to choose their own futures. By letting others choose what they want to do with their lives, it allows them to develop their individuality and their personality.

In many families and groups of friends worldwide, belonging is a key problem. Many of us try to change others to be more like ourselves, making us feel more accepted or popular. We want others to share our interests so we have more in common. What we have to understand is that everyone is different and we have to respect that, and allow us all to be who we are. By allowing people to take control of their lives, we will all have the courage to be who we want to be and to stand up for what we believe in. We must never change others, or the world will lose its complete sense of individuality and uniqueness. Discovering who everyone truly is will make us happier than trying to change the people around us.

He got so depressed and silent he just wandered off away from us, his glasses dangling from his left hand and his head drooped way down into his chest ... [Mitchell and the narrator] felt kind of bad for [Nat] in his disappointment, but [they] didn't call out to bring him back or try to make things better for him. It was best he faced the music on his own. (27)

This demonstrates that splitting paths is sometimes the best decision because we are all different and we can't be forced to be a person we are not. Happiness can never be achieved unless everyone can see eye to eye and understand each other. We all belong with people who share the same interests so that we feel accepted, which is what we all wish to find.

In our lives we all reach a point when we realize who we really are. When our friends don't have the same interests anymore, we often don't accept it. "When're you guys ever gonna (sic) have time to re-hearse? You'll be running a zoo here pretty soon. You gotta make up your minds what line of work

Rule #8

Rule #1

Rule #2

Rule #4

Rule #5

Rule #3

Rule #6

you're gonna follow in this life. You wanna be musicians or wolf breeders?'"(24) They didn't accept each other the way they were, the fact that they were different. In general, Shepard conveys the idea that no one is happy unless they feel accepted, because happiness can only exist in acceptance. If we're always trying to change something and focusing on the parts we don't like we'll never see all the good things in life, and we'll never be happy with it.

There will always be times during which we believe that everyone should go along with our way, our style, and our choices. It is human nature to want to be like others or to want others to be like us. But, the truth is that we have to let others be themselves, have their own opinions and find their own way. In doing so, we provide them with a sense of individuality, independence and freedom and we assume the same for ourselves. This demands strength to allow others to make their own decisions, even if this could result in losing them. This is true unconditional love: to respect the fact that others are different and not to control them but to accept them as they are. This way our society can consist of unique and individual people, not clones of each other. (Not only does this apply in the situations written by Shepard but also in everyday life, for everyday people. Many cultures, even those who have precise values and ideas, include letting others be themselves in their way of life). Each ad that is either aired on television or printed in magazines projects an image of the ultimate girl, and all females should want to resemble and be like them. This is what the companies want the young girls to think; they want them to wish they were like them, so the girls were those clothes and that make-up. Unfortunately, these companies don't know that they should allow people to be themselves, to give them a sense of individuality independence and freedom, which is what everyone deserves.

See <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

For more guidelines for specific situations, particularly formatting bibliography.