

# OIB Essay writing

## Integration of quotations

### Format of titles

#### Capitalization

Capitalize the first and last words, all the important words in the title (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs), but not articles (unless at the beginning or at the end of the title).

Death and the King's Horseman

A Streetcar Named Desire

#### Underlined titles

**Underline** the names of novels, novellas, plays, long poems.

King Lear

Hedda Gabler

Heart of Darkness

#### Titles in quotation marks

Enclose in **quotation marks**, and **do not underline**, the titles of articles, essays, short stories, poems, and chapters of books.

"Death of a Naturalist"

"Mending Wall"

"Walden"

#### Activity: format the following titles:

shooting an elephant (George Orwell) =

hero of our time (Lermontov) =

civil disobedience (H. D. Thoreau) =

where i lived and what i lived for (H. D. Thoreau) =

the great gatsby (F. S. Fitzgerald) =

stopping by woods on a snowy evening (Robert Frost) =

mid-term break (Seamus Heaney) =

### Accuracy of quotations

In general, a quotation-whether a word, phrase, sentence, or more-should correspond exactly to its source in spelling, capitalization, and interior punctuation.

#### **Prose**

Unless you wish to give special emphasis to prose quotations of not more than four typed lines, place them in quotation marks and incorporate them into your essay.

Achebe writes that "Among the Ibo the art of conversation is regarded very highly, and proverbs are the palm-oil with which words are eaten."

"He was obeyed," writes Conrad of the company manager in Heart of Darkness, "yet he inspired neither love nor fear, nor even respect."

In A Streetcar Named Desire, Blanche shows her internal contradictions when she exclaims: "I like an artist who paints in strong, bold colours, primary colours."

Sometimes, for the purpose of syntax, you need to change the quotation to make it fit into your sentence. Take for instance the above sentence. You could also integrate the quotation this way:

Blanche shows her internal contradictions when she exclaims that she "like [s] an artist who paints...."

Note that you have changed the subject of the sentence from the first person singular (I) to the third (she) and thus your quotation fits more smoothly into your sentence. Everything that **you** add should appear between **square brackets**.

#### Activity

Integrate the following passage, spoken by the narrator (Claudia) about Pecola, in three different ways using the different prompts:

"She was so sad to see. Grown people looked away; children, those who were not frightened by her, laughed outright. The damage done was total." (The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison)

- **Claudia says:**

- **Claudia says Pecola**
- **Morrison underlines Pecola's alienation by having Claudia say how sad**

### **Poetry**

A quoted line of verse, or part of a line, should appear within quotation marks as part of your text, unless you wish to set it off for special emphasis. You may also incorporate two or three lines in this way, using a slash ( / ) to separate lines.

In Shakespeare's King Lear, Goneril says of her father, "By day and night he wrongs me. Every hour / He flashes into one gross crime or other...."

### **Activities**

Transform the above quotation using the following prompt:

**In King Lear, Goneril says of her father that he**

How would you integrate the following lines taken from "Follower" by Seamus Heaney, who is talking about his father?

An expert. He would set the wing  
And fit the bright-pointed sock.

- **In "Follower," Seamus Heaney**
- **"An expert. He would set the wing,"**

### **Ellipsis**

When you wish to omit a word, phrase, sentence, or paragraph from a quoted passage, you should be guided by two principles: (1) fairness to the author quoted and (2) the grammatical integrity of your own writing. If you write only a word or a phrase, it will be obvious that you have left out part of the original sentence.

In his opening speech, King Lear speaks of his "darker purpose."

But if omitting material from the original leaves a quotation that appears to be a sentence, use ellipsis points, or spaced periods, to indicate that your quotation does not completely reproduce the original.

**For ellipsis within a sentence, use three periods ( . . . ).**

### **Original**

"Ikemefuna had begun to feel like a member of Okonkwo's family. He still thought about his mother and his three-year-old sister, and he had moments of sadness and depression." (Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe)

### **Quoted with ellipsis in the middle**

"Ikemefuna had begun to feel like a member of Okonkwo's family. He still ... had moments of sadness and depression."

### **Quoted with ellipsis at the end**

"Ikemefuna had begun to feel like a member of Okonkwo's family. He still thought about his mother and his three-year-old sister...."

### **Activity**

Quote with ellipsis (one in the middle and one at the end) the following passage:

"All the luggage I had in my cart consisted of one small portmanteau half filled with travelling-notes on Georgia; of these the greater part has been lost, fortunately for you; but the port-manteau itself and the rest of its contents have remained intact, fortunately for me." (Hero of Our Time, M. Lermontov)