

Handout for Lit. Analysis

Writing Tips: English 280

MLA 3.7.3 – Poetry

When indicating interruptions in lines of poetry use a **comma** between the line entry: **44, 47**.

When indicating continuous sequence of lines or pages, use a **hyphen**: **44-47**.

When quoting one line or less of poetry, you should make the quotation part of your sentence. Use a slash mark (/), with a space before it and after it, to introduce line divisions:

Hopkins describes God's grandeur as gathering "to a greatness, like the ooze of oil / crushed" (3-4).

When quoting more than three lines of poetry, indent the quotation ten spaces from the left margin.

MLA 3.6.1 and 3.6.2 – Capitals in Titles

In the title of your essay, do the following:

- **capitalize the 1st letter of the first word, the first letter of the last word, and all principal words**

Observe the following:

-DO NOT underline your title

-DO NOT capitalize articles, short prepositions, conjunctions, and the infinitive to (*Last to Arrive*); of course, if an article begins your title, you will capitalize the first letter of the article.

MLA 3.2.8 and 3.7.1- Quotations

Introduce quotations with your words and with **correct punctuation**.

When you introduce a quotation with a complete sentence, end the sentence with a colon.

EX: Warren is impatient with Silas's shortcomings and unforgiving judgment: "I told him so last haying, didn't I?" (13-14).

When you introduce a quotation with an incomplete sentence, end the phrase with a comma.

EX: The Monster tells Victor, "I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend" (95-96).

EX: As Shirley states, "The Monster proves to be a philosophical rascal" (161).

If you use a speaker "tag" – i.e., "she states," or "he says," you may wish to place it inside the quotation; if so, separate it from the quotation with commas:

EX: "I am malicious," he says, "because I am miserable" (139).

MLA 3.6.5 – Drama

Periods separate acts, scenes, and lines

3.1.56-89