

MLA Formatting Guidelines

I. Quoting

You should use a **block quote** when your quotation exceeds **4 lines of typed text**. Block quotes should be formatted like so:

Example:

In the end, we're all brains for hire. Mental space for rent, moments as a commodity. They have gotten it down to a science. How much a human being can take in a given twelve-hour shift. Grief, embarrassment, humiliation, all different, of course, so they calibrate our schedules, mix it up, the timing and the order, and the end result is you leave every day right about at your exact breaking point. (Yu 9-10)

- Double indented from the left-hand margin
- Not framed by quotation marks (because the double indent indicates that it is already a quote)
- The final punctuation mark should precede the parenthetical citation
- Double-spaced (I will allow single-spaced block quotes if you want to save paper)

If your quote is less than 4 lines of typed text, you should **integrate it into the body of your paragraph**. Regular quotes should be formatted like so:

Example: The narrator is forced to work for a mere “twelve dollars an hour” (Yu 3).

- You should put quotation marks around the selected text
- The final punctuation should follow the parenthetical citation
- Use brackets [...] to insert additional words into the quote
- Use ellipses to shorten quotes when necessary

MLA parenthetical citations should include the author's last name and page number when available. There should *not* be a comma between the author's last name and the page number.

Example: (Yu 12-13).

II. Titles

- The titles of short stories and poems should be placed in quotation marks
 - Exs: George Saunders's "The Semplica-Girl Diaries," M. NourbeSe Philip's "Zong! #1"
- The titles of novels, graphic novels and films should be italicized
 - Ex: Sabrina Vourvoulias's *Ink*
- The title of your own work should not be bolded, underlined, or italicized

III. Works Cited Page

- Your works cited page should be titled: Works Cited
- The entries on your works cited page should be alphabetized according to the author's last name
- If an entry on your works cited page exceeds the first line, the second line should be formatted as a hanging indent

Below is the correct formatting for the texts you wrote on for your first paper. Please compare it with your own to make sure that you formatted it properly!

Works Cited

major, devorah. "Trade Winds." *So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction & Fantasy*. Eds. Nalo Hopkinson and Uppinder Mehan. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2004. 183-200. Print.

Mingus, Mia. "Hollow." *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements*. Eds. Walidah Imarisha and adrienne maree brown. Oakland: AK Press, 2015. 109-121. Print.

Phi, Bao. "Revolution Shuffle." *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements*. Eds. Walidah Imarisha and adrienne maree brown. Oakland: AK Press, 2015. 7-14. Print.

Philip, M. NourbeSe. *Zong!* Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 2008. Print.

Saunders, George. "The Semplica-Girl Diaries." *The New Yorker*. 15 Oct. 2012: np. Web.

Yu, Charles. "Standard Loneliness Package." *Sorry Please Thank You*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2012. 3-33. Print.