How to Quote

Good Quotation Integration

The speaker in "The Raven" describes the setting of the poem: "it was in the bleak December;/ And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor" (7-8). The speaker's use of the words "dying" and "ghost" add to the story's dark tone and Gothic elements, while also portraying his own obsession with death.

Step 1: Choose the Quotation

- The quote should directly relate to your thesis.
  - Subject AND Predicate!
- It should provide an example of the themes you are studying and the argument you are making about the text.
- It should NOT be used for plot summary.

Step 2: Introduce the Quotation

- Write a short sentence that previews what is happening in the quotation.
  - E.g. The speaker in "The Raven" describes the setting of the poem: "it was in the bleak December;/ And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor" (7-8).
- Rewrite part of the quotation in your own words.
  - E.g. The speaker describes the setting as "bleak" and says that "each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor" in his home (7-8).
- If it is dialogue, state who said the words.
  - E.g. The speaker says, "'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door" (16).
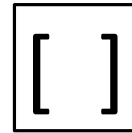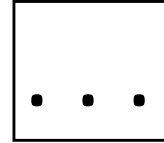
Check Punctuation!

- Sometimes you might use a colon to introduce a quotation:
  - E.g. The speaker in "The Raven" describes the setting of the poem: "it was in the bleak December…
- Sometimes you might use a comma:
  - E.g. The speaker says, "'Tis some visitor entreating…
- Sometimes you might not use any punctuation:
  - E.g. The speaker describes the setting as "bleak" and says that "each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor" in his home (7-8).

Finishing Off the Quotation

- DO NOT include any periods/commas inside the quotation marks.
- Close the quotation marks, then add a space, then insert the citation in parentheses.
- Finish the sentence with a period.

- The speaker in "The Raven" describes the setting of the poem: "it was in the bleak December;/ And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor" (7-8).

Special Extras

- Use ellipses to remove unnecessary words or shorten a quotation.
  - "'Tis some visitor… tapping at my chamber door" (5)

- Use brackets to insert important words of clarification.
  - "He [Prince Prospero] bore aloft a drawn dagger" (138)

Then Add Analysis!

- Tomorrow!