



Block Quotations: Chicago, MLA, & APA

Chicago Block Quote Formats

Block quotes are required when the quotations are four lines or longer, or they are 40 words or more.

Chicago Author-Date Format

- Double-space from the previous paragraph.
- Note that a block quote can be inserted into an existing paragraph where an intro sentence is unnecessary. The existing paragraph is the information that connects the reader to the block quote.
- However, if the block quote is not inserted into a paragraph, then write an introductory sentence for the block quote. The first line of the introductory sentence will be indented 0.5 inches to the right. If there is a second line or more to the intro sentence, it will be flush with the margin. It can be one to several sentences long. The intro sentence is written in double-space format.
- End your last sentence with a colon.
- Double-space again after the intro sentence and indent 0.5 inches from the left margin.
- Begin your block quote and write it in single-space format and maintain the 0.5-inch indent.
- Do not use quotation marks on block quotes.
- Annotate the author-date page number citation after the punctuation in parentheses.
- When you start a new paragraph, you will double space after the block quote and indent 0.5 inches.
- If you are not starting a new paragraph after the block quote, then double-space after the last line of the block quote and do not indent. You will annotate the remaining text of your paragraph flush with the margin in double-space format.

See the example on the next page.

Indent only the first line of the intro sentence 0.5 inches from the left margin and double space from the previous text.

←→ The author wrote comments about Luis Valdez's success with his play Zoot Suit, which gained tremendous popularity:

Double-space

←→ In January of 1978, Valdez was named a recipient of the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation Playwright in Residence Award in connection with the production of his original play, Zoot Suit. He was commissioned to write and direct Zoot Suit for production by Mark Taper Forum of the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles. After a successful run at the Taper, in August of 1978, the play moved to a nine-month extension of sold-out performances and hit reviews at the Aquarius Theatre in Hollywood, where the movie version of Zoot Suit was filmed in 1981. (Cordova 1980, 96)

Double-space

You will start a new paragraph here. And that is how you do a block quote in Chicago

author-date format. See the example below for the notes & bibliography format.

Chicago Notes & Bibliography (NB) Format

The NB format will be the same, but you will have your superscript number after the period instead of the author-date format. Since you are inputting a superscript number, there will be a footnote citation at the bottom of the page. Reminder: do not use quotation marks on block quotes. See the example below.

In this interview with Luis Valdez, Cordova notes his success with his play Zoot Suit, which gained tremendous popularity:

Double-space

In January of 1978, Valdez was named a recipient of the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation Playwright in Residence Award in connection with the production of his original play, Zoot Suit. He was commissioned to write and direct Zoot Suit for production by Mark Taper Forum of the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles. After a successful run at the Taper, in August of 1978, the play moved to a nine-month extension of sold-out performances and hit reviews at the Aquarius Theatre in Hollywood, where the movie version of Zoot Suit was filmed in 1981.¹

Double-space

You will start a new paragraph here. And that is how you do a block quote in Chicago

notes and bibliography format.

1. Cordova, 96.

MLA Block Quote Format

Block quotes are required when the quotations are four lines or longer, or they are 40 words or more.

First, write your introductory sentence, introducing the block quote. Note that a block quote can be inserted into an existing paragraph where an intro sentence is unnecessary. The existing paragraph is the information that connects the reader to the block quote. If the block quote is not inserted into a paragraph, then write an introductory sentence for the block quote.

- The first line of the introductory sentence will be indented 0.5 inches to the right. If there is a second line or more to the intro sentence, it will be flush with the margin and double-spaced. It can be between one to several sentences long.
- End your last sentence with a colon.
- Double-space after your intro sentence(s).
- After you double-space, indent 0.5 inches from the margin.
- Begin writing your block quote and maintain double-spacing between the block quote's text and 0.5 inches from the left margin.
- Do not use quotation marks in the block quote.
- Place punctuation mark after block quote and add author-page number citation after the punctuation. Your author-page citation will be in parentheses.
- Double-space after the block quote to begin a new paragraph.
- If you are not starting a new paragraph after the block quote, then double-space after the last line of the block quote and do not indent. You will annotate the remaining text of your paragraph flush with the left margin.

See the example below.

Maintain Double-spacing in MLA block quote

Angela Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration about his character:

They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)

You will start a new paragraph here. And that is how you do a block quote in MLA author-page format.

APA Block Quote Format

Block quotes are required for quotations that are four lines or longer, or they are 40 words or more. Note that a block quote can be inserted into an existing paragraph where an intro sentence is unnecessary. The existing paragraph is the information that connects the reader to the block quote. However, if the block quote is not inserted into a paragraph, then write an introductory sentence to introduce the block quote.

First, write your introductory sentence, introducing the block quote.

- The first line of the introductory sentence will be indented 0.5 inches to the right. If there is a second line or more to the intro sentence, it will be flush with the left margin. It can be between one to several sentences long.
- End your last sentence with a colon.
- Double-space after your intro sentence(s).
- After you double-space, indent 0.5 inches from the margin.
- Begin annotating your block quote and maintain double-spacing between the block quote's text and 0.5 inches from the left margin.
- Do not use quotation marks in the block quote.
- Annotate the punctuation mark after block quote and then add author-date and page number(s) citation in parentheses after the punctuation.
- Double-space after the block quote to begin a new paragraph.
- If you are not starting a new paragraph after the block quote, then double-space after the last line of the block quote and do not indent. You will annotate the remaining text of your paragraph flush with the margin.

See the example below.

Maintain Double-spacing in an APA block quote

Angela Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration about his character:

They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte, 1998, p. 78)

You will start a new paragraph here. And that is how you do a block quote in APA author-date, page format. Because this is an APA quote, a page number and a date are required.