Quotation Integration and MLA Citation

**Integrating Quotations**

You still need to integrate all your quotations, but will probably find using the quotation as an example of what you’ve just said to be the most effective way to integrate a quotation from Shakespeare.

For example:

At the end of the play, Macbeth finds life pointless and believes that time just drags on until death: “To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,/ Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,/ To the last syllable of recorded time” (5.5.19-21).

**MLA Citation**

Because Shakespeare writes in verse, there is a specific way to quote it.

**For 3 lines or less, use backslashes to indicate line breaks:**

At the end of the play, Macbeth finds life pointless and believes that time just drags on until death: “To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,/ Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,/ To the last syllable of recorded time” (5.5.19-21).

**For 4 lines or more, indent and write it as it’s written in the text:**

At the end of the play, Macbeth, who was once so full of ambition, has none left. Instead, he is left emotionless and numb to the tragic events in his life. After his wife’s death, he can only reflect on how pointless life is:

Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player

Who struts and frets his hour upon the stage,

And then is heard no more; it is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,

Signifying nothing (5.5.24-28).

At this point in the play, Macbeth has lost his humanity, and with it his sense of manliness, proving manliness to be a reflection of one’s humanity.

Essay Writing Skills - Explanations

An effective explanation requires 2 things:

1. An **argumentative word** to indicate you are, in fact, proving something
2. **Key words from your thesis** statement to indicate what you’re proving

It also needs to explain anything left unsaid by your point and proof.

**Practice Activity:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Write your thesis below (even if it’s just a rough thesis): | |
| Highlight the key words in your thesis here: | Make a list of argumentative words you can use to link back to your thesis. |
| Choose one of your quotations and integrate it into a sentence: | |
| Write an explanation linking this quotation back to the thesis: | |

Switch with another person in the group and complete the following checklist:

* Uses key words from thesis
* Uses an argumentative word
* Explains anything necessary from the quotation
* Makes sense and clearly links to thesis
* Provide feedback on anything you think is missing