**CITING SHAKESPEAREAN VERSE USING MLA FORMAT**

The Modern Language Association, or the MLA, has very specific standards for citing Shakespearean verse in academic papers. Quotes that are not properly cited could be mistaken for plagiarism, and it's important to learn how to reference the quotes properly.

As with other sources, there are two parts….

**THE FIRST PART: THE IN–TEXT PORTION FOR SHORT QUOTATIONS:**

* Place the quote within the text of the paragraph when using less than three lines from the play.
* If you are quoting more than one line from *Romeo & Juliet*, indicate the line breaks with a slash, leaving a space on each side.
* The in-text citation should appear before the end punctuation of the sentence.
* After having included the work’s title once, if the paper is only on that work, subsequent in-text citations do not require the title. An example follows….

**As Romeo watches Juliet, he says to himself, “But soft what light through yonder window breaks? / It is the East and Juliet is the sun” (*Romeo and Juliet.* 2.2.2-3). She cannot hear him because he is hiding in the orchard, but she is thinking of him at the same time.**

**…and for long quotations**

* Use block quotations for quotes that are four lines or longer.
* Format block quotations by beginning a new line and indenting one tab to the right for each verse and maintaining the original formatting from the text.
* Do not use quotation marks, and precede the block quotation with a colon.
* In-text citations for block quotations should appear after the end punctuation of the quote.

An example follows…..

As Romeo watches Juliet, he says to himself:

But soft what light through yonder window breaks? It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief  
That thou her maid art far more fair than she.  
Be not her maid, since she is envious. (2.2.2-7)

**THE SECOND PART….THE WORKS CITED:**

After having included in-text citations, cite the source used on the Works Cited page as you would any other text according to the general MLA guidelines provided.