

Quoting and Citing Poetry

Three Essential Elements of a Good Quotation:

INTRODUCTION

INTEGRATION

INTERPRETATION

Examples of Quotation

- So, you want to say something about the “violence” of the language describing God’s intervention in Donne’s “Batter my heart. . . .”

- You want to say something about the following lines:
 - Batter my heart, three-personed God; for You
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand, o’erthrow me, and bend
Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.

1. **INTRODUCE** the quotation by telling the reader what **context** you will be looking at, what **aspect of your argument** the lines will be important to:

- The violence of God's intervention into the spiritual life of the penitent is manifested in the sounds of the words Donne uses.

2. **INTEGRATE** the quoted material into a proper **grammatical** sentence:

Example of INTEGRATION #1:

- The violence of God’s intervention into the spiritual life of the penitent is manifested in the sounds of the words Donne uses. **For example, the speaker asks God to “bend / Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new” (3-4).**

- **NOTE:** The quotation fits into the sentence grammatically. You could remove the quotation marks (but you wouldn’t!!!) and the sentence would still make sense.

Example of INTEGRATION #2

- The violence of God's intervention into the spiritual life of the penitent is manifested in the sounds of the words Donne uses. **The speaker asks that God destroy him: “bend / Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new” (3-4).**
- NOTE: The quotation is introduced with a **complete sentence or independent clause followed by a colon (:)**
- NOTE: In both examples, the **line break** is indicated by a **slash (/)**.
- NOTE: The **position** of the quoted material in the text is indicated **parenthetically** by **line numbers**.

3. **INTERPRET** the quotation for the reader by showing her/him

- **what you see as important** in the lines
 - **how the lines support your argument**
- The violence of God’s intervention into the spiritual life of the penitent is manifested in the sounds of the words Donne uses. The speaker asks that God destroy him: “bend / Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new” (3-4). The **alliteration of the plosive “b” sounds in “break,” “blow,” and “burn,” along with the rhythm of the repeated single syllables, creates a sense of repeated blows, the battering that opens the first line of the poem.**