Words, Words, Words: Language and Syntax in *Hamlet*

When reading *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare, students are often mesmerized by the Bard’s beautifully crafted language. Although complex at first glance, the words that Shakespeare employs through his creation of this tragedy reflect not only the story of the Prince of Denmark, but also a transitory period in the history of the English language.

When we first meet Hamlet, he is depressed over the death of his father. His mother, Queen Gertrude, begs him to try and cheer up: “Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted colour off, And let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark” (Shakespeare I. i. 348-9). Gertrude is commenting on Hamlet’s overbearing depression that hangs over him.

### A Note on Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is when you take someone else’s idea and re-word the information while still retaining the central meaning of the idea. Paraphrasing is more detailed than just a summary of information. Paraphrasing must be cited to avoid plagiarizing your source. Paraphrasing can be a useful skill as it helps you to understand the material more fully. It also helps you to avoid the over-use of quotations, which creates a more fluid writing style.

Source: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu)
### Source Formatting for Print Resources

**Note:** The spacing in these examples has been modified for scale purposes. All work cited entries should be double spaced.

#### Book with one author:
**Format:**
Author Last Name, Author First Name. *Title of Book*. Location where the work was printed: Name of the Printing Company, Year it was printed. Medium in which it was printed.

**Example:**

#### Book with no author:
**Format:**
*Title of Book*. Location where the work was printed: Name of the Printing Company, Year it was printed. Medium in which it was printed.

**Example:**

#### Book with two or more authors:
**Format:**
First Author's Last Name, First Author's First Name, and Second Author's First Name followed by Second Author's Last Name. Location where the work was printed: Name of the Printing Company, Year it was printed. Medium in which it was printed.

**Example:**

#### Article from a scholarly journal:
**Format:**

**Example:**

#### Source from an anthology (essay, poem, etc.):
**Format:**
Author. "Title of Work." *Title of Anthology*. Ed. Name(s) of Editor(s). Location where the work was printed: Name of the Printing Company, Year it was printed. Pages on which the work can be found. Medium of Pub.

**Example:**

### Integrating Quotations into a Paper

**Quote one or more whole sentences, introducing them in your own words:**
Example: Chief Lyons commented, “America got it from the Indians. America got the ideas of democracy and freedom and peace here” (Johansen 24).

*The author’s name appears in the parenthetical citation. This citation corresponds to an entry on the works cited page.*

**Quote part of a sentence within a sentence of your own:**
Example: Bruce E. Johansen explains that the Great Law spelled out a “complex system of checks and balances” (24).

*Because the author’s name is mentioned in the text, provide only a parenthetical citation that contains the page number of the cited material.*

**Quote only a few words (or even just one word) within a sentence of your own:**
Example: These historians do not believe the writers of the Constitution tried to “copy” the Great Law (Johansen 234).

*Provide a citation for single words, phrases, or ideas that you include from other sources.*

**Use ellipsis points (three spaced periods) to show you’ve omitted words from a quotation:**
Example: Johansen explains that “The retention of internal sovereignty within the individual colonies...closely resembled the Iroquoian system” (71-72).

**Use a block quotation format for quotations that extend more than four lines of verse or prose:**
Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented one inch from the left margin; maintain double spacing.

*Parenthetical citation comes after the closing punctuation mark.*

### Source Formatting for Electronic Resources

#### Example of Citing an Entire Website:
*The Purdue OWL Family of Sites*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U. Web. 23 April 2010.

#### Source from an electronic database:
**Format:**
Author Last Name, Author First Name. "Title of the Article." *Title of Publication in which the article was originally printed*. Volume. Issue (Year Published): pages. *Name of Database*. Medium of Pub. Date article was accessed.

**Example:**

#### Example of Citing an article from an Online-only Journal:

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