**Quoting and Citing from a Play**

When quoting and citing (in-text) to support a point in your analysis of the play, make sure first to imply enough of the context of the narrative, including a thorough but brief explanation of the characters, so that the reader of your essay is well informed. Then, you want to quote with transition, and cite afterwards.

If only quoting a portion of a dialogue (single speaker), you can enfold the quote within the sentence. An example is given below:

***Ex.* Jim’s jubilant words only perpetuate Laura’s heartbreak and deep depression: “The power of love is really pretty tremendous! Love is something that – changes the whole world!” (Williams 1021)**

Thus, when quoting only a short passage or a few lines from one character, you need not separate the line(s) from the argument you’re supporting. Also, you can simply cite with (playwright’s last name page number), such as (Williams 1021), or you can add more to the citation, if you wish, such as (playwright’s last name Act scene line number page number). For instance, (Williams sc. 7, 1021) or with something like Hamlet, it would be (Shakespeare III, i, ll. 56-66, 828-829).

If quoting five or more lines or a dialogue between two characters, you would separate the passage from the point being made, and you don’t need quotation marks to do so. Various examples are given below.

***Ex.* Hamlet separates himself from other characters to speak directly to the audiences, almost as an accomplice to his actions, even as he contemplates suicide:**

**To be or not to be, that is the question**

**Whether ‘tis nobler in the mind to suffer**

**The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune**

**Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,**

**And by opposing end them. (Shakespeare III, i, ll. 56-61, 828)**

***Ex.* Tom has a feeling of regret at the end of the play, as he recognizes Laura’s fate:**

**I didn’t go to the moon, I went much further—for time is the longest distance between two places… I left Saint Louis. I descended the steps of this fire escape for the last time and followed, from then on, in my father’s footsteps, attempting to find in motion what was lost in space… Then all at once my sister touches my shoulder: I turn around and look into her eyes… Oh, Laura, Laura, I tried to leave you behind me, but I was more faithful than I intended to me. (Williams 1025)**

***Ex.* As Jim refers to Betty, Amanda’s comment refers to all women’s fated dependence on men:**

**Jim: I hope it don’t seem like I’m rushing off. But I promised Betty I’d pick her up at the Wabash depot, an’ by the time I get my jalopy down there her train’ll be in. Some women are pretty upset if you keep ‘em waiting.**

**Amanda: Yes, I know—The tyranny of women. (Williams 1023)**