# How to Quote and Cite a Poem in an Essay

### 🔹 Quote

**Short quote (1–3 lines):**

In *“Because I could not stop for Death”*, Emily Dickinson reflects on mortality:  
 “Because I could not stop for Death – / He kindly stopped for me –” (Dickinson 1–2).

**Long quote (4+ lines – Block format):**

In *“The Waste Land”*, T.S. Eliot describes a bleak landscape of modern life:

  April is the cruellest month, breeding  
   Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
   Memory and desire, stirring  
   Dull roots with spring rain. (Eliot 1–4)

**⚠️ Note:** For block quotes:

* Omit quotation marks
* Start the quote on a new line
* Indent the quote 1 inch from the left margin
* Maintain original line breaks

### 🔹 In-text Citation Format

**Format:** (Author’s Last Name Line Numbers)

**Examples:**

* (Dickinson 1–2)
* (Eliot 3–5)

### 🔹 Works Cited Entry

**Format:**Author’s Last Name, First Name. *“Title of Poem.”* *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor’s Name, Publisher, Year, pp. Page Numbers.

**Examples:**

* Dickinson, Emily. *“Because I could not stop for Death.”* *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*, edited by Thomas H. Johnson, Little, Brown and Company, 1960, pp. 12–13.
* Eliot, T.S. *“The Waste Land.”* *The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*, edited by Richard Ellmann and Robert O’Clair, W.W. Norton & Company, 1988, pp. 370–382.

📝 **Tips:**

* Always preserve the formatting of the original poem (line breaks, punctuation).
* Italicize *longer works* (anthologies, collections), but use **quotation marks** for individual poems.
* Use a hanging indent for entries in the Works Cited page (second and following lines indented).