

MLA format for citing text evidence

When your writing includes the words of others, you need to use proper citing. This involves placing the words of others between quotation marks and indicating the page from which those words came. This is the basic format, “This is where the concrete detail goes” (13).

* Typical citation

“Lennie watched her, fascinated” (31).

* Citation with something taken out

“Then his eyes moved sadly ...” (30).

“... a pretty nice fella” (20).

“George looked ... at his feet” (21).

* Citation of a character talking + text

“ ‘she’s purty,’ said Lennie defensively” (32).

* Citation of changed verb tense

“she did not seem to be looking at Lennie” (31).

becomes

“she did not ... [look] at Lennie” (31).

* Citation of added/changed information

“I lost my hand right here on this ranch” (59).

becomes

“[Candy] lost [his] hand ... on [the] ranch” (59).

* Citation with a question mark (works for exclamation mark)

“Gonna buck barley?” (34).