Shakespeare MLA Citations

1. When quoting Shakespeare, give act, scene, and line numbers in parentheses as follows (make sure you have already mention the name of the play (in italics) and the author (…Shakespeare):

a. When citing a line or part of a line of **poetry** (anything in rhyme or iambic pentameter), such as when Mercutio addresses Benvolio in Act 3, scene 1, line 55:

* Direct quotation: Mercutio says, “Men’s eyes were made to look, and let them gaze” (3.1.55).
* Indirect quotation: Mercutio says that “[m]en’s eyes were made to look, and let them gaze” (3.1.55)

Note that you may make small changes as long as you indicate those changes with brackets or ellipses:

* Mercutio is dismissive of Benvolio’s concerns, as “[m]en’s eyes were made to look, and…gaze” (3.1.55).

b. When citing up to three lines of **poetry**, use slash marks to indicate line breaks:

* Direct quotation: Mercutio says, “Men’s eyes were made to look, and let them gaze/I will not budge for no man’s pleasure, I” (3.1.55--6).
* Indirect quotation: Mercutio says that “[m]en’s eyes were made to look, and let them gaze/I will not budge for no man’s pleasure, I” (3.1.55--6).

You should not be citing more than three lines in a row, as it is near impossible to analyze that much in such a short essay.

c. When you are citing up to four lines of **prose** (anything that’s not poetry), such as when Mercutio mocks Tybalt’s challenge in Act 3, scene 1, lines 47—49:

* Direct quotation: Mercutio says, “Consort? What, dost thou make us minstrels? An thou make minstrels of us, look to hear nothing but discords” (3.1.47--9).
* Indirect quotation: When Tybalt accuses Mercutio of “consort[ing]” with Romeo (3.1.46), Mercutio intentionally misinterprets the line, asking if Tybalt thinks they are “minstrels” because he is looking for “discords” of both the musical and physical variety (3.1.47--49).

2. You don’t need to attach a bibliography to your essay, unless cite sources other than *Romeo and Juliet*.

N.B. Bonus points to anyone who realized that I used an en-dash (--), not a hyphen (-), for inclusive numbers/anyone who can figure out how to make one.