

## QUOTED MATERIAL: USING ELLIPSES

An ellipsis is a literary device that indicates the omission of a word or words in a quotation from the original source. An ellipsis is three double-spaced periods separated from the text with single spaces:

*Martin meant to imply a hidden meaning when he intimated that his character "transgressed beyond ... the normal bounds of human reason" (123).*

Four dot ellipses (a normal period followed by the three spaced dots) must have complete thoughts on either side of the ellipsis. Use four dots in the following instances only:

- To omit the last part of a quoted sentence

**Example:** *She said, "I'm always tired .... Since I have nothing to do now, I'm bored. My feet hurt" (134).*

- To omit the beginning of the next sentence

**Example:** *She said, "I'm always tired .... I'm bored. My feet hurt" (134).*

- To omit a complete sentence or more

**Example:** *She said, "I'm always tired .... My feet hurt" (134).*

- To omit one or more complete paragraphs

**NOTE:** It is recommended that you **NEVER** begin or end a quotation with an ellipsis.