Ellipses (. . .) are used to show omitted words, hesitations, and pauses. They consist of three equally spaced periods. Ellipses, also called ellipsis points, are colloquially known as "dot-dot-dot."

A space should precede and follow the ellipses. When omitting a word or words in a quotation, use ellipses to indicate the deleted word or words.

Original Text: "He got away. We called in for backup, drove with blaring sirens, and chased after him, but he ran faster than we did," said the policeman.

Ellipses: "He got away. We . . . chased after him, but he ran faster than we did," said the policeman.

Note: Be sure the omission does not change the basic meaning of the quote, and the sentence remains grammatically correct.

Ellipses are only in brackets to differentiate between ellipses already present in the quote and your omission. If the quote already has an omission, use brackets around the ellipses you are adding to indicate which is yours and which is the original.

Original Text: "I'm feeling my Inner Infant standing holding the bars of his crib and looking out of the bars . . . bars of his crib and crying for his Mommy and Daddy to come hold him and nurture him."

Ellipses: "I'm feeling my Inner Infant [. . .] looking out of the bars . . . bars of his crib and crying for his Mommy and Daddy to come hold him and nurture him."

~David Foster Wallace, *Infinite Jest*

Use ellipses when the quotation ends with a parenthetical reference (such as a page number, a name, or a title), and follow the ellipses with the ending quotation, citation, and period.

Example: "We know that Leonardo's interest in Euclidian geometry developed during his years in Milan . . ." (91).

When using ellipses at the end of a quotation without a parenthetical reference, follow with a period, for a total of four points. There is no space before the first period or after the last period.

Example: The article states, "Many students work while attending school. . . ."