Quote Mark Check

Sort MLA quotations by punctuation and citation placement.

12.LU.2.A "Apply a style manual, such as that of the Modern Language Association (MLA) or the American Psychological Association (APA), to apply rules for punctuation and formatting of direct quotations in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MLA CORRECT

The quotation follows MLA punctuation and citation rules. After a full introductory signal phrase, use a comma or colon before the quotation, and place a parenthetical citation after the closing quotation mark.

Jordan observes, "Night classes serve many workers" (56).

NEEDS REVISION

The quotation has a punctuation or citation-placement error. Check the mark after the signal phrase, the quotation marks, and the position of the citation and final punctuation.

"A storm closed the harbor". (Davis 11)

1 SORT

8 items

Read each quotation and circle CORRECT or REVISE.

1.	The historian writes, "The treaty altered trade routes" (Nguyen 44).	CORRECT REVISE
2.	Lopez asks, "Who benefits from this policy?" (18).	CORRECT REVISE
3.	Carter states "The archive preserves fragile records" (61).	CORRECT REVISE
4.	In her report, Singh explains that "the data require caution" (103).	CORRECT REVISE
5.	Miller notes, "The bridge opened in 1932". (77)	CORRECT REVISE
6.	Patel argues, "The seed bank protects biodiversity". (29)	CORRECT REVISE
7.	The editor offers this warning: "Deadlines shape the reporting process" (8).	CORRECT REVISE
8.	"The map reveals a changing shoreline" (Rivera 12).	CORRECT REVISE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

PROVE IT: Pick two item numbers. For each, name its category and explain the punctuation or citation rule that proves your choice.
MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new CORRECT example and one new REVISE example.

CORRECT _____

REVISE _____

CHALLENGE

Revise this sentence so it follows MLA rules for a direct quotation: The researcher asks "Can a model predict floods?". (42)

ANSWER KEY

Quote Mark Check

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The historian writes, “The treaty altered trade routes” (Nguyen 44).	**CORRECT**	A comma introduces the quotation, and the citation comes before the final period.
2	Lopez asks, “Who benefits from this policy?” (18).	**CORRECT**	The quoted question keeps its question mark inside the quotation marks; the surrounding declarative reporting sentence ends with a period after the citation.
3	Carter states “The archive preserves fragile records” (61).	**REVISE**	A comma is needed after the introductory signal phrase.
4	In her report, Singh explains that “the data require caution” (103).	**CORRECT**	The quotation is grammatically integrated with “that,” and the citation precedes the final period.
5	Miller notes, “The bridge opened in 1932”. (77)	**REVISE**	The period is misplaced before the citation and should appear after the citation.
6	Patel argues, “The seed bank protects biodiversity”. (29)	**REVISE**	The citation should follow the closing quotation mark, and the final period should follow the citation.
7	The editor offers this warning: “Deadlines shape the reporting process” (8).	**CORRECT**	A colon correctly introduces the quotation, and the citation is placed before the final period.
8	“The map reveals a changing shoreline” (Rivera 12).	**CORRECT**	The parenthetical citation follows the quotation, and the period follows the citation.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CORRECT**: Dawson writes, “Public art can invite debate” (35).
- **REVISE**: Dawson writes “Public art can invite debate” (35).

Challenge: The researcher asks, “Can a model predict floods?” (42).

For Part 2, require a specific punctuation or citation-placement rule. A question mark or exclamation point belonging to quoted words stays inside the quotation marks. When the surrounding sentence is declarative, add its final period after the parenthetical citation, as in item 2 and the corrected challenge. If the whole surrounding sentence is a question, its question mark instead follows the citation. The supplied MLA mini-guide is actively applied; the example quotations are classroom examples, not authenticated source excerpts.