Ellipses consist of three periods with a space before each period and after the last one:

\[ \ldots \]

You can find more mini-lessons online:

[http://dept.kent.edu/english/WritingCent/mini.htm](http://dept.kent.edu/english/WritingCent/mini.htm)

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Mini-Lesson # 17
Revised Spring 2008

the last one:

Ellipses consist of three

Ellipses
An ellipsis indicates that material has been omitted from an exact quote. Use brackets to show the ellipsis was not part of the original quote. (Do not use an ellipsis if the omitted material comes at the beginning of the quote.)

The Declaration of Independence states: “When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another [. . .] a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation” (17).

In Mark Twain’s autobiography, *Roughing It*, Twain pokes fun at his knowledge of horses: “I had never seen such wild, free, magnificent horsemanship outside of a circus as these picturesquely clad Mexicans, Californians, and Mexicanized Americans displayed in Carson streets everyday. [. . .] I had quickly learned to tell a horse from a cow, and was full of anxiety to learn more” (236-37).

Do not end a quote with an ellipsis unless part of the final sentence of the quote is omitted.

I like the humor Twain displays in the statement, “I had quickly learned to tell a horse from a cow . . .” (237).

An ellipsis can also indicate a pause or hesitation in speech or an incomplete thought.

The wounded soldier’s final, whispered words were, “Tell Jenny I love . . .”

“I saw Susan in the mall on . . . I think it was Wednesday.”

If an ellipsis falls at the end of a poetry quote, use four periods, followed by the parenthetical reference.

No man is an island, entire of itself; Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, As well as if a promontory were, As well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were. . . . (1-5)