

## Ellipses and the Slash

**Ellipses** are the three dots that are used to indicate that something has been omitted from a quote or passage. They can also indicate a pause.

Omissions: If you remove a part of a sentence, you use the ellipses to indicate to your reader that something has been removed.

Note the quote below:

- Considering the standard test, Gee wrote, “For example, in one task subjects were given pictures of a hammer, a saw, a log, and a hatchet and asked to say which three go together. Literate subjects were generally willing to say that the hammer, hatchet, and saw go together because they are all tools, thus grouping the objects on the basis of abstract and meaning” (76).

Notice the quote using ellipses:

- Considering the standard test, Gee wrote, “For example, in one task subjects were given pictures of a hammer, a saw, a log, and a hatchet and asked to say which three go together. Literate were generally willing to say that the hammer, hatchet, and saw go together ..., thus grouping the objects on the basis of abstract and meaning” (76).

Indicating a pause: Ellipses can be used to indicate time and as a fading away.

- The young woman held tight to her dying father’s hand and the machine beeped...beeped...beeped, and he sighed, and then he was gone....

**Slashes** are used to mark line division in poetry that is being quoted within a running text, to indicate a choice, to offer alternative, and in fractions.

Divisions in poetry

- In Frost’s, poem, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” the events unfold as he describes among other things his horse. He writes: “My little horse must think it queer/ To stop without a farmhouse near/Between the woods and frozen lake.”

Indicate a choice

- Please answer with either T/F.

Offer an alternative

- The restrooms are marked m/f.