1. Which of the following lines taken from page 88 of *Looking for Alaska*, a novel by John Green, has proper M.L.A. in-text citation formatting?

A. “If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane.” (Green, 88)
B. “If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane” (Green, 88).
C. “If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane” (Green 88).
D. “If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane.” (Green, page 88)
E. “If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane” (Green, page 88).
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“If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane” (Green 88).

In M.L.A. format, notice there is no period immediately after the quote.
“If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane” (Green 88).

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Instead, the period is placed at the end of the page citation, outside of the parentheses.
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Then, include those ending marks within the quote, but still use the period at the very end of the citation.
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Like this:
“What’s the matter, Nick? Do you object to shaking hands with me?” (Fitzgerald 179).

Quote taken from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s masterpiece, The Great Gatsby
Great, but what if the quote I want to use ends with a question mark or exclamation mark?

Then, include those ending marks within the quote, but still use the period at the very end of the citation.

Like this:
“What’s the matter, Nick? Do you object to shaking hands with me?” (Fitzgerald 179).

For clarity, keep this question mark.

Also include this period.
2. Pretend this line is part of a body paragraph support section. What’s wrong with the underlined part of the quote frame/set-up structure?

For example, Green writes, “If people were like rain...”
2. Pretend this line is part of a body paragraph support section. What’s wrong with the underlined part of the quote frame/set-up structure?

For example, Green writes, “If people were like rain...”

- Doesn’t give enough background
- Assumes the reader knows the story
- Sounds clunky/abrupt/mechanical
- All quotes need a transition of some sort and a frame/background to explain what’s happening in the quote
A better frame:

For example, Miles “Pudge” Halter, the story’s protagonist, is drawn to the energetic force of Alaska, a girl at his new school, and explains, “If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane” (Green 88).

Now the reader has a better understanding of what’s happening in the story. As you write, always assume the reader of your essay has not read the original texts you are discussing.
A better frame:

For example, Miles “Pudge” Halter, the story’s protagonist, is drawn to the energetic force of Alaska, a girl at his new school, and explains, “If people were like rain, I was like drizzle and she was a hurricane” (Green 88).

Then, develop this idea by symbolically connecting the girl to the storm – both cause people to be awe-struck, but both also cause devastating destruction.
3. Circle the proper verb tense to use when quoting source material:

Past tense                  Present tense

It doesn’t matter as long as the writer uses a consistent verb tense
3. Circle the proper verb tense to use when quoting source material:

- Past tense
- Present tense

It doesn’t matter as long as the writer uses a consistent verb tense
4. Write two present-tense verbs:

5. Write two past-tense verbs:
4. Write two present-tense verbs:
   argues
   believes
   cautions
   denies
   examines

5. Write two past-tense verbs:
   argued
   believed
   cautioned
   denied
   examined
6. Should you include quoted material from your source/s in your introductory paragraph? Why or why not?
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**NO!**

Quoted material from sources belongs in body paragraphs, where it can be analyzed or discussed.

Resist the urge to launch your essay with a quote from the book you’re about to discuss or the research you’re about to present. The reader wants to hear *your* voice as the essay begins.
7. Are slight edits to the original quotes allowed as you place the material in your essay? Explain your answer.
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YES, but changes to the original text are only allowed when you need to clarify pronouns, add necessary information to aid readers’ understanding, or adjust verb tenses to grammatically correct the flow of your sentence.
7. Are slight edits to the original quotes allowed as you place the material in your essay? Explain your answer.

**YES**, but changes to the original text are only allowed when you need to clarify pronouns, add necessary information to aid readers’ understanding, or adjust verb tenses to grammatically correct the flow of your sentence.

These edits must be marked with brackets:
So, let’s say you want to use this quote in a paper about endangered species:

“If there are not enough young to balance deaths, the end of the species is inevitable.”

Quote taken from Jane Goodall’s non-fiction book, *Hope for Animals and Their World*
“If there are not enough young to balance deaths, the end of the species is inevitable” (Goodall 83).

An embedded quote in a body paragraph sentence with minor edits, might look like this:

Goodall paints a dire picture, reminding the reader that without “enough young to balance deaths, the end of the [Brown Spider Monkey] is inevitable” (Goodall 83).
**NEVER** alter the meaning of the original text with an edit.

Make sure your usage of all quoted and paraphrased material is true to the original author’s intent.
8. If a quote that you want to use in your essay is longer than four lines, what should you do?

First, reconsider whether you want to actually use that full quote. It’s far better to boil down whatever you find interesting about that quote to the essential elements that you want to analyze/discuss and just paraphrase the rest.

Think more text in your paragraph impresses your teacher and makes you seem smart? You’re wrong.
If you’re still committed to filling your page with a lengthy quote, you’ll need to follow special rules as you place it in your body paragraph:

• Place quote in a free-standing block of text
• Omit quotation marks
• Indent the entire quote one inch from the margin
• Maintain double-spacing
• Parenthetical citation comes after the closing punctuation mark
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- Maintain double-spacing
- Parenthetical citation comes after the closing punctuation mark

Complicated?

Nah, it just looks like this:
The essay then continues with the standard margins once again. Notice that the indentations are one inch on both the left and right side. Also, the entire essay needs to be double-spaced.
Any questions?

Review your notes and the handout as you build your next body paragraph.