

## Self-edit your prose, style and MLA format or pay the price

### Careless Proofreading Errors

#### Run-ons and Comma Splice

- e.g. *Macbeth is a wimp but his wife a wench.* (Run-on)
- e.g. *Macbeth is a wimp, his wife a wench.* (Comma splice)
- e.g. *Macbeth is a wimp, but his wife is a wench.* (Correct)

#### Correct use of Semicolons

- e.g. *Macbeth may be a wimp; however, his wife is a wench.*
- e.g. *Macbeth is a weak-willed man; his wife is a brutal woman.*

#### Commas after dependent clauses

- e.g. *Although Macbeth is weak willed, his wench of a wife takes advantage of him.*

#### Pronoun Antecedent Agreement

- e.g. *Everyone suspects Macbeth of foul play, but none will risk his life to say so.*

#### Use of Present tense in Literature

- e.g. *Macbeth murders sleep when he murders Duncan.*

#### Compound Adjectives before a noun are hyphenated

- e.g. *weak-willed man*

#### Correct placement of Apostrophes

- e.g. *Lady Macbeth's tongue-lashings are too formidable a force for Macbeth to ignore.*

#### Avoids awkward, muddled prose & passive voice

- Riddle me this: Will Mrs. Leach grasp your meaning swiftly or will you annoy her and make her read your sentences twice?*

### MLA format—citations

“Who can be wise, amazed, temp’rate, and furious / Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man” (1.2.124-126).

Macbeth pretends his life is over now that King Duncan is gone:

#### **Macbeth.**

Had I but died an hour before this chance,  
I had lived a blessed time; for from this instant  
There’s nothing serious in mortality;  
All is but toys; renown and grace is dead;  
The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees  
Is left this vault to brag of. (1.2.103-109)

In his attempt to express the depth of his “grief,” he overacts and overstates the meaningless life he will live from here forward.

