**Workshop Activity - MLA**

**Can I Quote You on That?**

**Original Passage:** When everything else has gone from my brain – the President’s name, the state capitals, the neighborhoods where I lived, and then my own name and what it was on earth I sought, and then at length the faces of my friends, and finally the faces of my family – when all this has dissolved, what will be left, I believe, is topology: the dreaming memory of land as it lay this way and that (Dillard 3).

**About the author:** Annie Dillard is an award-winning American author of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and literary criticism. The passage above is from her autobiography *An American Childhood*.

**Activity Instructions:** Match the errors listed in the box with the appropriate example below (1-6), and then provide corrections.

Does not introduce the quote Uses the wrong verb tense for MLA

Is formatted using APA citation Does not provide an in-text citation

Omits quotation marks In-text citation in the wrong place

Omits words without ellipses to indicate change

Changes a word without brackets to indicate alteration

1. Dillard, one of America’s most fascinating writers, wrote regarding the moment death shows up at her door that “What will be left, I believe, is topology” (p 3).

Phrase from box (2 errors): ­­­­­­­­­­­

How would you correct this?

1. “When everything else has gone from my brain” (Dillard 3).

Phrase from box: ­­­­­­­­­­­

Write a corrected version of the quote here:

1. In saying and finally the faces of my family, Dillard concludes a list of all the things in life that are most familiar to her (3).

Phrase from box: ­­­­­­­­­­­

Rewrite the quote correctly here:

1. The statement “What will be left, I believe, is topology: the dreaming memory of land as it lay this way and that” (Dillard 3), is relating the land as an immovable presence through time.

Phrases from box (2 errors): ­­­­­­­­­­­

How would you correct this?:

1. Annie Dillard is an American author famous for her beautiful prose as demonstrated in the following passage: “When everything else has gone from my brain – the President’s name, the state capitals, the neighborhoods where I lived, and then my own name and what it was on earth I sought.”

Phrase from box:

How would you correct this?

1. Annie Dillard (1987) in her autobiography *An American Childhood* writes, “When everything else has gone from my brain, what will be left, I believe, is topology” (p. 3).

Phrase from box:

Rewrite the quote correctly here:

Works Cited

**Dillard, Annie. *An American Childhood*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1987. Print.**

**Are You Paraphrasing Me?**

**Original Passage:** “As my friend Tom often remarks, it's amazing how much time and money can be saved in the world of dating by close attention to detail. A white sock here, a pair of red braces there, a grey slip-on shoe, a swastika, is as often as not all one needs to tell you there's no point writing down phone numbers and forking out for expensive lunches because it's never going to be a runner” (Fielding 13).

**Activity Instructions:** Match the phrases from the box below with the appropriate paraphrase example (1-5). *Don’t focus on citations here; the goal is to identify good and bad paraphrases.*

Strays from the author’s ideas Uses the author’s original words

Uses the author’s original sentence structure

Acceptable paraphrase Acceptable paraphrase

1. Bridget’s friend talks about how wearing only one sock or one shoe will help you save time and money, money that you could spend on a date.

Phrase from box: ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Noting what a person is wearing can help you determine whether or not you should spend time and money dating them, or if you should just move on.

Phrase from box: ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. If you pay close attention to what people are wearing, such as a white sock here, a grey shoe there, or even a swastika, you will be see that there’s no point in getting phone numbers or paying for expensive lunches because it just won’t work anyway.

Phrase from box: ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. An unfashionable color here, a tacky accessory there, a stained pull-over sweater, a gun, is as frequently as infrequently simply what you require to inform you that the person isn’t worthy of a date.

Phrase from box: ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Bridget’s friend suggests that she, “pay close attention to detail” because it can help avoid wasting her time and money on unworthy dates.

Phrase from box: ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_