

The Ellipsis for Omitting Text

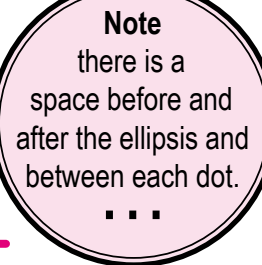
An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which shows that some text has been left out. The ellipsis is used to shorten a long quotation. The omitted text does not change the meaning of the quotation and is unnecessary to understanding the quotation.

Example with complete quotation:

John F. Kennedy made a promise in his inaugural speech: “Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”

Example with ellipsis:

John F. Kennedy made a promise in his inaugural speech: “Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price . . . to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”



Below is another passage from President Kennedy’s speech. Write two sentences quoting the passage and using an ellipsis.

Passage 1:

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage—and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this Nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

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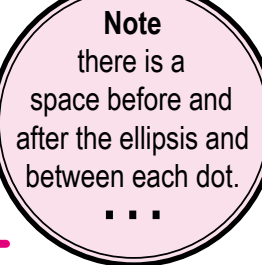
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Answers: Student’s answers will vary. Examples of correct answers:

1. President Kennedy declared the arrival of a younger generation when he said, “Let the word go forth . . . that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans.”
2. President Kennedy stated his resolve to defend human rights when he said, “a new generation of Americans . . . unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights.”