#### Apostrophes: possessives, plurals and contractions

- Use an apostrophe with contractions.
- The apostrophe is always placed where letters have been removed.
  - Don't
  - Isn't
  - You're

- Use the apostrophe to show possession.
- Place the apostrophe before the "s" to show singular possession.
  - The boy's hat is on the floor.
  - A woman's bag can be one of her most treasured possessions.
  - I kicked the dog's bone out of spite.

- To show plural possession, make the noun plural first, then immediately use the apostrophe.
  - Two girls' hats are both pink.
  - The Joneses' house is the nicest on the block.
  - Two men's shirts are at the cleaners.

#### • Do <u>not</u> use an apostrophe for the plural of names.

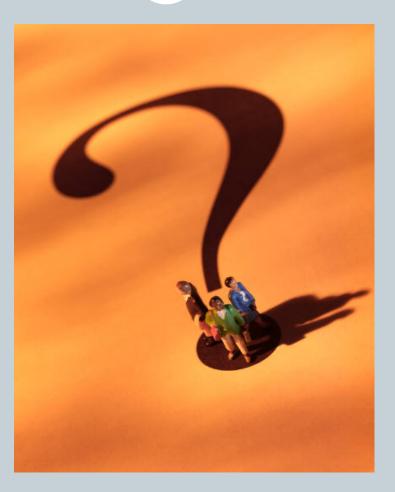
- We visited the Joneses in Miami.
- The Changs have two birds and one dog.

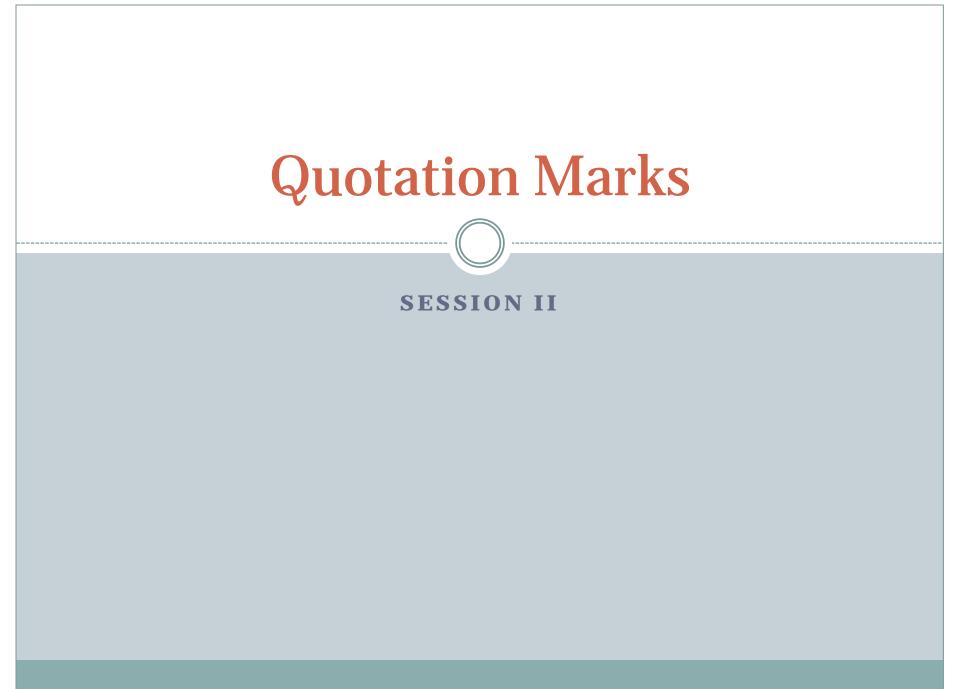
- Use the apostrophe and "s" after the second name, but only if two people possess the same item.
  - John and Anna's home is made of brick.
  - John and Anna's job contracts will be renewed at the end of the year.

- Never use an apostrophe with possessive pronouns.
  - That is his bottle.
  - Yours is over there.
  - Whose jacket is this?

- The only time an apostrophe is used for *it's* is when it is a contraction for "it is" or "it has."
  - It's a nice day.

## Questions





#### Titles

 Songs, short stories, essays, poems, episodes, and chapters must have quotation marks.

#### **Examples:**

- "Billie Jean" is a song by Michael Jackson.
- "Phenomenal Woman" is a poem by Maya Angelou.
- "A Jury of Her Peers" is a short story by Susan Glaspell.

#### **Title Exceptions**

- Books, albums, epic poems (The Odyssey)
  - No quotation marks
- Branches and Trees
  - Songs are branches of albums, chapters are branches of books, etc.
- Branches have quotation marks; trees are either italicized or underlined.
  - "Billie Jean" was featured on *Thriller*.
  - "Billie Jean" is the song/branch. *Thriller* is the album/tree.

#### **Direct Quotes/Paraphrasing**

• Direct quotes are the EXACT words of someone else and must have quotation marks.

- "Turn your wounds into wisdom," said Oprah.
- Tupac Shakur said, "I'm a reflection of the community."

• Paraphrasing is summarizing; no quotations are needed.

- "I'm happy," said Michelle. (direct quote)
- Michelle said that she was happy. (paraphrasing)

#### **Block Quotes**

APA: a quote consisting of more than 40 words
 No quotation marks

# MLA: a quote consisting of four or more lines No quotation marks

#### Block quotes never need quotation marks. Never.

#### Punctuation

#### • Periods = INSIDE

• My favorite poem is "Phenomenal Woman."

• My favorite poem is "Phenomenal Woman".

#### • Commas

- "I see where you're coming from," I said.
- I said, "I see where you're coming from."
- o "I love you," he said, "but I won't let you disrespect me."

#### **Punctuation Continued**

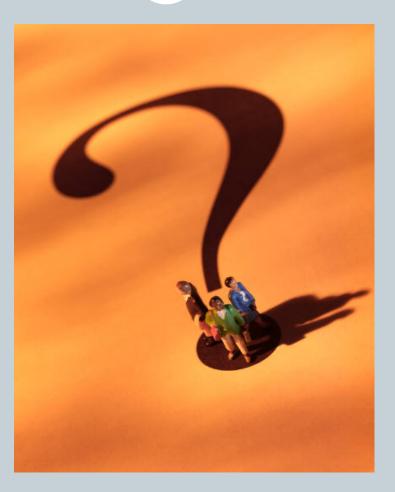
#### Question marks and exclamation marks

- Depends if they are part of the quote or title
- She asked, "Are you going to the mall with me?"
- Do we have to memorize "Phenomenal Woman"?

#### • Colons and semicolons = OUTSIDE

• She's quick to say, "I love you"; however, she's also quick to take it back.

## Questions



#### Let's Connect

# <u>SSU Writing Center:</u> Phone: 912-358-4495 Email: <u>ssuwritingcenter@savannahstate.edu</u>

**FB: SSU Writing Center** 

#### • <u>QEP:</u>

Web: <a href="http://qep.savannahstate.edu">http://qep.savannahstate.edu</a> FB: Quality Enhancement Plan for SSU Twitter: WriteSSU IG: WriteSSU