

Name _____

An ellipsis is a series of three dots (. . .) which shows that some text has been left out. Use the ellipsis to shorten a long quotation. The text that is omitted doesn't change the meaning of the quotation, and the reader can still understand the quotation without it.

COMPLETE QUOTATION: After being charged with corrupting the youth of Athens in the 4th century B.C., Socrates defended himself by saying, "I will make my defense, and I will endeavor in the short time which is allowed to do away with this evil opinion of me which you have held for such a long time; and I hope I may succeed, if this be well for you and me, and that my words may find favor with you. But I know that to accomplish this is not easy - I quite see the nature of the task. Let the event be as God wills: in obedience to the law I make my defense."

QUOTATION WITH ELLIPSIS: After being charged with corrupting the youth of Athens in the 4th century B.C., Socrates defended himself by saying, "I will make my defense . . . and I hope I may succeed . . . But I know that to accomplish this is not easy—I quite see the nature of the task. Let the event be as God wills: in obedience to the law I make my defense."

Below is another passage from Socrates' speech. On a separate page, write two sentences quoting the passage and using an ellipsis.

Don't forget there is a space before and after the ellipsis and between each dot.

Why do I mention this? Because I am going to explain to you why I have such an evil name. When I heard the answer, I said to myself, What can the god mean? and what is the interpretation of this riddle? for I know that I have no wisdom, small or great. What can he mean when he says that I am the wisest of men? And yet he is a god and cannot lie; that would be against his nature. After a long consideration, I at last thought of a method of trying the question. I reflected that if I could only find a man wiser than myself, then I might go to the god with a refutation in my hand. I should say to him, "Here is a man who is wiser than I am; but you said that I was the wisest." Accordingly I went to one who had the reputation of wisdom, and observed to him - his name I need not mention; he was a politician whom I selected for examination - and the result was as follows: When I began to talk with him, I could not help thinking that he was not really wise, although he was thought wise by many, and wiser still by himself; and I went and tried to explain to him that he thought himself wise, but was not really wise; and the consequence was that he hated me, and his enmity was shared by several who were present and heard me. So I left him, saying to myself, as I went away: Well, although I do not suppose that either of us knows anything really beautiful and good, I am better off than he is - for he knows nothing, and thinks that he knows. I neither know nor think that I know. In this latter particular, then, I seem to have slightly the advantage of him. Then I went to another, who had still higher philosophical pretensions, and my conclusion was exactly the same. I made another enemy of him, and of many others besides him

ANSWERS WILL VARY
Examples of correct answers:

1. Socrates challenged his accusers by beginning, “When I heard the answer, I said to myself, What can the god mean? . . . After a long consideration, I at last thought of a method of trying the question.”
2. Socrates hinted at his own definition of wisdom by saying, “When I began to talk with him, I could not help thinking that he was not really wise . . . So I left him, saying to myself, as I went away: Well, although I do not suppose that either of us knows anything really beautiful and good, I am better off than he is—for he knows nothing, and thinks that he knows.”