ELLIPSES IN QUOTED MATERIAL

An ellipsis is a literary device that indicates the omission of a word or words in a quotation from the original source.

The original source reads:
“We did not say she was crazy then. We believed she had to do that. We remembered all the young men her father had driven away, and we knew that with nothing left, she would have to cling to that which had robbed her, as people will.
“She was sick for a long time. When we saw her again, her hair was cut short, making her look like a girl, with a vague resemblance to those angels in colored church windows--sort of tragic and serene” (Faulkner 1653).

The basic ellipsis is THREE DOUBLE-SPACED PERIODS separated from the text with a single space.

“When we saw her again, her hair was cut short . . . with a vague resemblance to those angels in colored church windows--sort of tragic and serene” (Faulkner 1653).

Use FOUR PERIODS (a normal period followed by the spaced dots) only when:
1. The last part of a sentence is omitted:
   Example: “She was sick. . . . When we saw her again, her hair was cut short, making her look like a girl, with a vague resemblance to those angels in colored church windows--sort of tragic and serene” (Faulkner 1653).

2. The beginning of the next sentence is omitted:
   Example: “She was sick for a long time. . . . her hair was cut short, making her look like a girl, with a vague resemblance to those angels in colored church windows--sort of tragic and serene” (Faulkner 1653).

3. A complete sentence or more is omitted:
   Example: “We did not say she was crazy then. . . . We remembered all the young men her father had driven away, and we knew that with nothing left, she would have to cling to that which had robbed her, as people will” (Faulkner 1653).

4. One or more complete paragraphs are omitted.

Four dot ellipses MUST have COMPLETE thoughts on either side of the ellipsis.