**Formatting Dialogue: Three Examples**

**Basic Rules:**
- Usually every new speaker gets a new paragraph.
- Punctuation always goes inside the quotation marks.
- You don’t have to use a tag (he said, she exclaimed, etc.) for every single line of dialogue, but always make sure it’s clear who’s talking when.
- If it sounds like the dialogue and the tag are all one sentence, punctuate them that way.
- Each of the examples below has a slightly different feel, use whichever seems best for the tone and style of your work.

**Example One**

Before I knew it he was sitting and talking to me for an hour or more most days. A typical conversation would go something like this:

Jake would say, “I went for a five mile run earlier today.”
“Why would you do that?”
“This town is backwards. I always get lost.”
“No,” I’d say, “you’re just backwards ‘cause you’re from the south.”
“Well at least we talk right.” Jake laughed. “You northerners have a weird accent.”

**Example Two**

Before I knew it he was sitting and talking to me for an hour or more most days. A typical conversation would go something like this:

Jake: I went for a five mile run earlier today.
Me: Why would you do that?
Jake: This town is backwards. I always get lost.
Me: No, you’re just backwards ‘cause you’re from the south.
Jake: Well, at least we talk right. You northerners have a weird accent.
Me: It’s not us. It’s you people from the south who have a wicked accent.
Jake: See? I told you ya’ll can’t talk right.

**Example Three**

Before I knew it he was sitting and talking to me for an hour or more most days. A typical conversation would go something like this:

Jake would say something like, “I went for a five mile run earlier today,” and I would reply,
“Why would you do that?”
“This town is backwards. I always get lost.”
“No,” I’d say, “you’re just backwards ‘cause you’re from the south.”
“Well at least we talk right.” Jake laughed. “You northerners have a weird accent.”