

### DOCUMENTING SOURCES: MLA Format (Modern Language Association)

The following guidelines, quotations, and examples are based on the Modern Language Association's *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Seventh Edition, (2009) located in the Library's Ready Reference Department (R 808.02 G35M).

In conducting your research, you will be studying material that has been published by other authors, and you will be building your research and ideas on information the authors presented. The MLA Handbook states, "...whenever you draw on another's work, you must also document your source by indicating what you borrowed – whether facts, opinions, or quotations – and where you borrowed it from" (126). **Properly citing your sources prevents plagiarism.**

#### WHAT SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED?

The standards of scholarship require that the sources of information that you incorporate into your paper should be documented. This includes facts, ideas, opinions, direct quotations, and paraphrased material, as well as other information. However, information that is common knowledge should not be documented.

Conscientious documentation gives credit to another's ideas or opinions and indicates your integrity as an author. When you fail to document passages that are not your own, you are **plagiarizing**, i.e., stealing the ideas or writings of another. Types of plagiarism include: using part or all of a paper written by another person; paraphrasing another person's ideas and claiming them as your own; and using a unique phrase or expression that someone else created, without giving them credit.

**Note:** If you are in doubt about whether or not you are plagiarizing, it is better to cite your source (MLA Handbook 59).

#### PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION

The most practical way to indicate within the body of your paper the sources or parts of sources you have used is to enclose your citations (or references) in parentheses within the text itself.

**"References in the text must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited.** The information in your parenthetical references in the text must match the corresponding information in the entries in your list of works cited" (MLA Handbook 214 -15). The references usually provide in parentheses the author's last name and the page numbers where the cited information can be found. The following sections explain variations of this format. Parenthetical documentation replaces endnotes or footnotes, but it does not replace the List of Works Cited or Selected Bibliography at the end of the paper. As you'll see later in this section, you'll still need this.

## SAMPLE PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

### AUTHOR'S NAME INCLUDED IN THE TEXT

Tannen has argued this point (178-85).

*(The author's name is given in the text; page numbers are given in parentheses.)*

### AUTHOR'S NAME IN THE REFERENCE

This point has already been argued (Tannen 178-85).

*(Both the author's last name and the page numbers are given in parentheses.)*

### MORE THAN ONE WORK BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Use the author's last name, a comma, and a short title before the pagination if more than one work by an author is cited in a paper. Consider the following examples of in-text references and the corresponding entries in the Works Cited list below:

Shakespeare's *King Lear* has been called a "comedy of the grotesque" (Frye, *Anatomy* 237).

For Northrup Frye, one's death is not a unique experience, for "every moment we have lived through we have also died out of into another order" (*Double Vision* 85).

Works Cited

Frye, Northrup. *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1957. Print.

---. *The Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1991. Print.

### WORK WITH MORE THAN ONE AUTHOR

(Nettleton, Case, and Stone 13)

### WORK WITH MORE THAN THREE AUTHORS

(Spiller et al. 1249)

### WORK LISTED BY TITLE

*(When no author is given, include enough of the title in parentheses to provide clear identification of the item in the Works Cited list.)*

In text: International espionage was as prevalent as ever in the 1990s ("Decade" 26).

Works cited entry: "Decade of the Spy." *Newsweek* 7 Mar. 1994:26-27. Print.

### WORK IN MORE THAN ONE VOLUME

When citing a volume as well as a page reference: (Wellek 2:1-10)

When referring to an entire volume: (Wellek, vol. 2)

## DRAMA OR POETRY

"In citing commonly studied verse plays and poems, omit page numbers altogether and cite by division (act, scene, canto, book, part) and line, with periods separating the various numbers – for example, 'Ilyad 9.19' refers to book 9, line 19 of Homer's *Ilyiad*". If you are citing only line numbers, write the word *line* or *lines*. (See the *MLA Handbook*, pages 226-27.) See the examples that follow.

### PLAY WITH ACT, SCENE, AND LINE NUMBERS

Out, out brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more. It is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing. (*Macbeth* 5.5.23-28)

### A POEM

In Robert Frost's poem, "The Death of the Hired Man," one character describes home as "The place where, when you have to go there/ They have to take you in" (lines 118-19).

## QUOTED MATERIAL SET OFF FROM TEXT

"...type a space after the concluding punctuation mark of the quotation, and insert the parenthetical reference" (MLA 217). See the example below:

At the end, O'Neill's God-oriented tragedy comes to focus on man. The shift is made without a jar, and the play achieves a fullness of statement and form which no earlier work of his had attained. It is a major work of art prepared by a playwright who in mastering his craft and completely understanding the implications of his theme had finally come of age. (Bogard 225)

## PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Parenthetical documentation for electronic sources is very similar to the examples given above. However, because page numbers are often absent, additional directions and examples are provided. Before using parenthetical references for electronic sources, read the following statements from the *MLA Handbook* (220-21):

If you are citing "a Web publication that has no pagination or other type of reference markers – it is often preferable to include in the text, rather than in a parenthetical reference, the name of the person (e.g., author, editor, director, performer) that begins the corresponding entry in the works-cited list."

When no personal or corporate name is given, refer to the title of the work in the text, and place the source alphabetically by title in the works cited list.

If the source uses paragraph numbers, as some electronic journals do, provide the appropriate number preceded by *par.* or *pars* in the parentheses. If section numbers are provided, use the abbreviation *sec.*, as in the second example below. Do not count unnumbered paragraphs (*MLA Handbook* 221).

Chan claims that “Eagleton has belittled the gains of postmodernism” (par. 41).

The Committee on Scholarly Editions provides an annotated bibliography on the theory of textual editing (sec. 4).

## LIST OF WORKS CITED

At the end of the paper, as previously mentioned, you must provide a list of **WORKS CITED**, which is an alphabetical list of **all the works you have referenced in your paper**.

The following rules apply to the **WORKS CITED** section of your paper.

1. **Arrange the entries alphabetically** according to the authors' last names. If no author is given, alphabetize by the title. (Ignore a beginning *A*, *An*, or *The* in the title.)
2. If you use **several works by one author**, list them alphabetically by title, and give the author's name in the first entry only. For the remaining entries, type 3 hyphens followed by a period and the title. (See the example on pg. 6 of this guide).
3. Use a **hanging indent**. Start the entry at the left margin; all lines after the first one in each entry should be indented one-half inch.
4. **Double space** between and within entries.
5. Use the same format if the instructor requires a ***Selected Bibliography*** or a ***Works Consulted***, which may include works not actually cited in the text).

## RECENT CHANGES IN MLA CITATION STYLE

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2009) presents numerous changes in the MLA style. The following items explain changes in formatting the entries in the **Works Cited** list:

1. **Italicize the titles** of major works (books, journals, newspapers, plays, paintings, a poem published as a book, etc.); do not underline. (See Section 3.6.2.)
2. **Identify the publication medium**. Each citation must contain a term at the end of the citation that identifies the publication medium of the source (i.e. Print, Film, Web, Microform, Personal communication, Slide program, Videocassette, Performance, Lecture, etc.).
3. **URL addresses are not included in citations** unless the source would be difficult or impossible to locate by means of a title or author search, or if a professor requires it.
4. **For citations of journal articles, give the volume, issue, and page numbers**. (Continuous or non-continuous pagination is no longer considered.)

## **SAMPLE ENTRIES FOR LIST OF WORKS CITED OR BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **CITING BOOKS AND PARTS OF BOOKS (pp. 148-79)**

#### **BOOK BY ONE AUTHOR**

Roszak, Theodore. *The Making of a Counter Culture*. Garden City: Anchor, 1969. Print.

#### **BOOK BY ONE AUTHOR (later edition)**

Ferguson, Mary Anne. *Images of Women in Literature*. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton, 1975. Print.

#### **BOOK BY TWO OR MORE AUTHORS**

Bryan, Margaret B., and Boyd H. Davis. *Writing about Literature and Film*. New York: Harcourt, 1975. Print.

Schubel, J. R., A. D. Williams, and W. M. Wise. *Suspended Sediment in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal*. Stony Brook: Marine Sciences Research Center, State U of New York, 1977. Print.

#### **BOOK WITH AN EDITOR OR COMPILER AS AUTHOR**

Timko, Michael, ed. *Twenty-Nine Short Stories*. New York: Knopf, 1975. Print.

#### **A CHAPTER OR ESSAY BY ONE AUTHOR IN A BOOK EDITED BY ANOTHER**

Wright, Richard. "Bright and Morning Star." *Short Stories: A Critical Anthology*. Ed. Ensaf Thune and Ruth Prigozy. New York: Macmillan, 1973. 368-94. Print.

#### **A CHAPTER OR ESSAY BY ONE AUTHOR IN ONE VOLUME THAT IS PART OF AN EDITED MULTIVOLUME WORK**

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. "Sojourner Truth, the Libyan Sibyl." 1863. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. Ed. Paul Lauter et al. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. 1. Lexington: Heath, 1994. 2425-33. Print.

#### **A BOOK WITH A SOCIETY, ASSOCIATION, OR INSTITUTION AS AUTHOR**

Antioch College. *Educating for Democracy: A Symposium*. Yellow Springs: Antioch P, 1937. Print.

#### **A SEPARATELY TITLED VOLUME IN A MULTIVOLUME WORK WITH A GENERAL TITLE AND ONE AUTHOR**

Boorstin, Daniel J. *The Colonial Experience*. New York: Random, 1958. Vol. 1 of *The Americans*. 3 vols. 1958-73. Print.

### **A WORK THAT IS COMPLETE IN ITSELF IN A WORK BY A SINGLE AUTHOR**

Steinbeck, John. *Tortilla Flat*. *The Short Novels of John Steinbeck*. Introd. Joseph Henry Jackson. New York: Viking, 1963. 1-133. Print.

### **A TRANSLATION**

Gironella, Jose Maria. *Peace after War*. Trans. Joan MacLean. New York: Knopf, 1969. Print.

### **MULTIPLE WORKS BY ONE AUTHOR**

Frye, Northrop. *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1957. Print.

---, ed. *Design for Learning: Reports Submitted to the Joint Committee of the Toronto Board of Education and the University of Toronto*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1962. Print.

---. *The Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1991. Print.

### **A BOOK IN A SERIES**

Mitchell-Boyask, Robin, ed. *Approaches to Teaching the Dramas of Euripedes*. *Approaches to Teaching World Lit*. 73. New York: MLA, 2002. Print.

### **A REPUBLISHED BOOK**

Doctorow, E.L. *Welcome to Hard Times*. 1960. New York: Viking-Penguin, 1996. Print.

## **CITING ARTICLES FROM BOOKS AND PERIODICALS (136-148)**

### **BASIC FORMAT:**

Author's name. "Title of the Article." *Name of the Journal or Magazine*. Volume number. Issue Number (Date of publication): Inclusive page numbers. Medium of publication.

### **A SIGNED ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL**

Wilkie, Brian. "The Romantic Ideal of Unity." *Studies in the Literary Imagination* 19.2 (1986): 5-21. Print.

### **A SIGNED ARTICLE FROM A WEEKLY OR BIWEEKLY PERIODICAL OR MAGAZINE**

Hull, John D. "Evan Mecham, Please Go Home." *Time* 9 Nov. 1987: 61. Print.

### **AN UNSIGNED ARTICLE FROM A WEEKLY OR BIWEEKLY PERIODICAL**

"High-Tech Shopping Moscow Style." *U.S. News & World Report* 2 Nov. 1987: 12. Print.

### **A SIGNED ARTICLE FROM A MONTHLY OR BIMONTHLY PERIODICAL**

Dickson, Nancy E. "Personnel Policies Take Form." *Personnel Journal* Apr. 1987: 52-61.  
Print.

### **A SIGNED ARTICLE IN AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OR REFERENCE BOOK**

Singer, Peter. "Ethics." *The New Encyclopedia Britannica: Macropaedia*. 15th ed. 1986. Print.

### **AN UNSIGNED ARTICLE IN AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OR REFERENCE BOOK**

"University." *The New Encyclopedia Britannica: Micropaedia*. 15th ed. 1986. Print.

### **A SIGNED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**

Sheppard, Nathaniel, Jr. "Tombs Closes as Last of Its Inmates Depart." *New York Times*  
21 Dec. 1974: 1+. Print.

### **AN UNSIGNED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**

"President Arrives in China for Talks." *New York Times* 1 Dec. 1975: 1+. Print.

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

If the review is titled but unsigned, begin the entry with the title of the review and alphabetize by that title (see the following entry for "The Cooling of an Admiration"). If the review is neither titled nor signed, begin the entry with Rev. of, and alphabetize by the title of the work reviewed. (See the entry for *Anthology of Danish Literature*).

Rev. of *Anthology of Danish Literature*, ed. F. J. Billeskov Jansen and P. M. Mitchell. *Times Literary Supplement* 7 July 1972: 785. Print.

Bordewich, Fergus M. Rev. of *Once They Moved Like the Wind: Cochise, Geronimo, and the Apache Wars*, by David Roberts, and *Brave Are My People: Indian Heroes Not Forgotten*, by Frank Waters. *Smithsonian* Mar. 1994: 125-31. Print.

"The Cooling of an Admiration." Rev. of *Pound/Joyce: The Letters of Ezra Pound to James Joyce, with Pound's Essays on Joyce*, ed. Forrest Read. *Times Literary Supplement* 6 Mar. 1969: 239-40. Print.

### **REVIEW OF A FILM**

Schickel, Richard. "Making a Memoir Memorable." Rev. of *Biloxi Blues*. Dir. Mike Nichols.  
Screenplay by Neil Simon. *Time* 4 Apr. 1988: 77. Print.

## **CITING ADDITIONAL COMMON SOURCES**

### **MICROFORM PUBLICATION BY ERIC**

*Workers 45+: Today and Tomorrow*. Washington: American Assn. of Retired Persons, Workers Equity, 1986. ERIC. Microfiche. ED 285 058.

### **A TELEVISION OR RADIO PROGRAM**

"Frederick Douglass." *Civil War Journal*. Narr. Danny Glover. Dir. Craig Haffner. Arts and Entertainment Network. 6 Apr. 1993. Television.

### **A TRANSCRIPT OF A TELEVISION OR RADIO BROADCAST**

*Fresh Air*. Narr. Terry Gross. Natl. Public Radio. WHYI, n.p., 20 May 2008. Print. Transcript.

### **A SOUND RECORDING**

Ellington, Duke, cond. *First Carnegie Hall Concert*. Duke Ellington Orch. Rec. 23 Jan. 1943. Prestige, 1977. LP.

### **A FILM OR VIDEO RECORDING**

*It's a Wonderful Life*. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946.

### **A WORK OF ART**

Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn. *Aristotle with a Bust of Homer*. 1653. Oil on canvas. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

### **A LECTURE, A SPEECH, OR AN ADDRESS**

Terkel, Studs. Conf. on Coll. Composition and Communication Convention. Palmer House, Chicago. 22 Mar. 1990. Address.

### **AN INTERVIEW**

Pei, I.M. Personal interview. 22 July 1993.

Poussaint, Alvin F. Telephone interview. 10 Dec. 1990.

Rowling, J.K. E-mail interview. 8-12 May 2002.

Wiesel, Elie. Interview by Ted Koppel. *Nightline*. ABC. WABC, New York. 18 Apr. 2002. Television.

## CITING GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

United States. Cong. Senate. Committee on Labor and Human Resources. *Hearings on Human Resources Impact: Over-the-Counter Product Packaging Safety*. 99th Cong., 2nd sess. S. Hrg. 99-731. Washington: GPO, 1986. Print.

---Dept. of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Uniform Crime Reports for the United States*. Washington: GPO, 1986. Print.

---Dept. of State. *U.S. Climate Action Report---2002: Third national Communication of the United States of America under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Washington: GPO, 2002. Print.

## CITING LEGAL SOURCES

References to the United States Code begin with the title number and are alphabetized under United States. List in numerical order when citing more than one reference to the code.

21 US Code. Sec. 1401a. 1988. Print.

US Const. Art. 1, sec.1. Print.

Pesticide Monitoring Improvements Act of 1988. Pub. L. 100-418. 23 Aug. 1988.  
Stat. 102.1412. Print.

## CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Citations for Web publications are very similar to those for print publications. They usually have an author, title, and publication information. However, Web publications may be frequently updated and may also be accessible through multiple databases and interfaces, so the versions are potentially different at different times, and must be considered unique. That is why you need to include the date of access as well as the publication data for your sources.

In the past, the MLA Handbook required the inclusion of the URLs of Web sources, but because Web addresses frequently change and are often too long and difficult to transcribe, they have limited value. Do not include the URL unless your professor requires it, or if the page cannot be easily found by doing an author or title search on the Internet. If you must include the URL, place it immediately after the date of access, a period, and a space. Enclose the entire address in angle brackets. If possible, give the complete address. If it must be broken, break it only after double or single slashes. (MLA Handbook 181-82)

Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. *The William Blake Archive*. Lib. of Cong., 28 Sept. 2007. Web. 20 Nov. 2007. <<http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/>>.

## **FULL-TEXT ARTICLES FROM LIBRARY OR SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES**

Knox, William E. and Paul Lindsay. "Higher Education, College Characteristics, and Student Experiences." *Journal of Higher Education* May (1992): 303. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 17 Jan. 2001.

Angier, Natalie. "Chemists Learn Why Vegetables Are Good for You." *New York Times* 13 Apr. 1993, late ed.: C1. *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe*. Web. 8 Oct. 1993.

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture* 10.3 (2000): n. pag. *Project Muse*. Web. 5 June 2008.

## **CITING SOURCES FROM THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

### **ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY PROJECT OR INFORMATION DATABASE**

"Fresco." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2005. Web. 29 Oct. 2005.

"City Profile: San Francisco." *CNN Interactive*. Cable News Network, 19 June 1998. Web. 19 Jun. 1998.

Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. *The William Blake Archive*. Lib. of Cong., 8 May 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

### **PERSONAL SITE**

Lancashire, Ian. Home page. n.d. Web. 1 May 1997.

### **ONLINE WORK CITED WITH PRINT PUBLICATION DATA**

Bierce, Ambrose. "Academy." *The Devil's Dictionary*. *The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce*. Vol. 7. New York: Neale, 1911. N. pag. *The Ambrose Bierce Project*. Web. 15 May 2008.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*. Brooklyn, 1855. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.

Whittier, John G. "A Prayer." *The Freedman's Book*. Ed. L. Maria Child. Boston, 1866. 178. *Google Book Search*. Web. 15 May 2008.

### **PART OF AN ONLINE BOOK**

Keats, John. "Ode on a Grecian Urn." *Poetical Works*. 1884. *Project Bartelby*. Ed. Steven van Leeuwen. May 1998. Columbia U. Web. 8 May 1998.

Nesbit, E[dith]. "Marching Song." *Ballads and Lyrics of Socialism*. London, 1908. Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. Apr. 1997. Indiana U. Web. 26 Apr. 1997.

#### **ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE JOURNAL**

Flannagan, Roy. "Reflections on Milton and Ariosto." *Early Modern Literary Studies* 2.3 (1996): 16 pars. Web. 22 Feb. 1997.

Raja, Masood Ashraf. Rev. of *Voices of Resistance: Muslim Women on War, Faith, and Sexuality*, ed. Sarah Husain. *Postcolonial Text* 3.2 (2007): n. pag. Web. 5 June 2008.

#### **ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE MAGAZINE**

Landsburg, Steven E. "Who Shall Inherit the Earth?" *Slate* 1 May 1997. Web. 2 May 1997.

#### **ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE NEWSPAPER**

Reid, T.R. "Druids Return to Stonehenge." *Washington Post* 22 June 1998. Web. 22 June 1998.

#### **AN ONLINE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION**

United States. Dept. of Justice. Natl. Inst. Of Justice. *Prosecuting Gangs: A National Assessment*. By Claire Johnson, Barbara Webster, and Edward Connors. Feb. 1995. Web. 29 June 1998.

#### **POSTING TO A DISCUSSION LIST**

Merrian, Joanne. "Spinoff: Monsterpiece Theatre." Online posting. 30 Apr. 1994. *Shaksper: The Global Electronic Shakespeare Conference*. Web. 27 Aug. 1997.

#### **AN INTERVIEW**

Ackroyd, Peter. Interview. *Bold Type*. Nov. 2001. Web. 25 June 2002.

#### **E-MAIL COMMUNICATION**

Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." Message to Daniel J. Cahill. 21 June 1997. E-mail.

Harner, James, L. Message to the author. 20 Aug. 2002. E-mail.

## **A REVIEW**

Ebert, Roger. Rev. of *The Truman Show*, dir. Peter Weir. *Chicago Sun-Times Online* 5 June 1998. Web. 16 June 1998.

Kisselgoff, Anna. "Mourning Schubert with Oblique Simplicity." Rev. of *Medium*, chor. Mark Morris. Mark Morris Dance Group. Brooklyn Acad. Of Music, New York. *The New York Times on the Web* 26 June 1998. Web. 26 June 1998.

If you need further assistance with citing your resources, please speak with a Reference Librarian, or consult the MLA Handbook, located in Ready Reference area of the library.

**\*Adapted from materials developed by the URIS Undergraduate Library, Cornell University.**

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