MLA Formatting

In Text Citations

In MLA style, referring to the works of others in your text is done by using what's known as parenthetical citation. Immediately following a quotation from a source or a paraphrase of a source's ideas, you place the authors name followed by a space and the relevant page number(s)

> Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3)

Mark breaks in short quotations of verse with a slash, /, at the end of each line of verse: (a space should precede and follow the slash)

Cullen concludes, "Of all the things that happened there / That's all I remember" (11-12).

Multiple Sources In Text Citation
To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon:

> ...as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21)

In Text Citation of Anonymous Work/Author Unknown
If the work you are citing has no author, use an abbreviated version of the work's title. (For non-print sources, such as films, TV series, pictures, or other media, or electronic sources, include the name that begins the entry in the Works Cited page). For example:

> An anonymous Wordsworth critic once argued that his poems were too emotional ("Wordsworth Is a Loser" 100).

In Text Citations of Indirect Sources
Sometimes you may have to use an indirect source. An indirect source is a source cited in another source. For such indirect quotations, use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you actually consulted. For example:

> Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Long Quotations
For quotations that are four or more lines of verse or prose: place quotations in a free-standing block of text and omit quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented one inch from the left margin; maintain double-spacing. Only indent the first line of the quotation by a half inch if you are citing multiple paragraphs. Your parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark. When quoting verse, maintain original line breaks. (You should maintain double-spacing throughout your essay.) For example:

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

> They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no
>
> more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the
>
> morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's

door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got

there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was

sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)

Works Cited Page – Basics

Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.

Label the page Works Cited (do not underline the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.

Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.

The Specifics

Books

First or single author's name is written last name, first name. The basic form for a book citation is:

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Anthology or Collection

List by editor or editors, followed by a comma and "ed." or, for multiple editors, "eds."

Hill, Charles A. and Marguerite Helmers, eds. *Defining Visual Rhetorics*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004.

An Article in a Newspaper or Magazine

Basic format:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages.

Scholarly journal:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume. Issue (Year): pages.

Electronic Sources

Author and/or editor names

Name of the database, or title of project, book, article

Any version numbers available

Date of version, revision, or posting

Publisher information

Date you accessed the material

Electronic address, printed between carets (<, >).

Web Sites

Name of Site. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sometimes found in copyright statements). Date you accessed the site <electronic address>

An Article in a Web Magazine

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Online Publication*. Date of Publication. Date of Access <electronic address>.

An Article in an Online Scholarly Journal

Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 6.6 (2000): 33 pars. 8 May 2006 <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol6no6/wheelis.htm>.

An Article or Publication in Print and Electronic Form

Author's name (if not available, use the article title as the first part of the citation)

Article Title

Periodical Name

Publication Date

Page Number/Range

Database Name

Service Name

Name of the library where or through which the service was accessed

Name of the town/city where service was accessed

Date of Access

URL of the service

Example:

Author. "Title of Article." *Periodical Name* Volume Number (if necessary) Publication Date: page number-page number. Database name. Service name. Library Name, City, State. Date of access <electronic address of the database>.

Films and Movies

List films by their title, and include the name of the director, the film studio or distributor and its release year. If other information, like names of performers, is relevant to how the film is referred to in your paper, include that as well.

Example:

The Usual Suspects. Dir. Bryan Singer. Perf. Kevin Spacey, Gabriel Byrne, Chazz Palminteri, Stephen Baldwin, and Benecio del Toro. Polygram, 1995.