



MLA Documentation Style

by Amy Herman, Library Adjunct Faculty, 2/27/07
librarians@oc.ctc.edu –or– 360.475.7252

Academic writing standards require you to credit all sources that you use to write a paper, report, or study. The Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style provides a guideline for properly crediting your sources by requiring notes in the text of your work that point the reader to an alphabetical list of your sources, called a “Works Cited” list. Properly citing your sources of information allows a reader to locate the original sources of information you used in your writing and will also help you avoid the serious offense of plagiarism.

*** For more detailed information about the MLA documentation style and to see examples not listed on this handout, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. (Ref. 808.02 Gi350m6), or Diana Hacker’s MLA website: http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_o.html or the Purdue University online writing lab website: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION

Parenthetical documentation directs the reader to the specific sources of information that you are referencing in the body of your paper. These listings must direct the reader to a particular work listed on your “Works Cited” page. In most cases the author’s last name and a specific page number, in parentheses, are enough to identify the source you used and its location within that source.

Example: During the 1980s global inflation remained steady at around 15 percent (Rogoff 49).

If you are already referring to the author’s name in the text of your paper, then you need only cite the specific page number in parentheses.

Example: According to Rogoff, “global inflation averaged 15 percent in the 1980s” (49).

CITATIONS

The basic components of an MLA citation are:

Book

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Chapter or Essay if Applicable.” Title of Book. Publication Location: Publisher, Date.

Article, print version

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Title of Periodical Vol.# (Year or date of publication): page number(s).

Article, electronic version

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Title of Periodical Vol.# (Year or date of publication): page number(s). Database Name. Service Name. Library Name. date of access <URL>.

Internet citation

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Webpage.” Date of posting. Website Title. Date of access. <URL>.

*** See reverse for citation examples ***

PRINT / VIDEO RESOURCES

Book with one author

Smith, Noel W. An Analysis of Ice Age Art: Its Psychology and Belief System. New York: Peter Lang Pub., 1992.

Book with two authors

Donohoe, Tom, and Neil Johnson. Foul Play: Drug Abuse in Sports. Oxford: Blackwell, 1987.

*** Note: if there are three or more authors, list the first author that appears on the title page/citation, followed by "et al." or you may give all names in full, in the order in which they appear on the title page.

Essay in an anthology

Weissman, James. "World Health Has Worsened." The Health Crisis: Opposing Viewpoints. Ed. Barbara Szumski. San Diego: Greenhaven, 1989. 17-26.

Encyclopedia article

Sobieszek, Robert. "Photography." The World Book Encyclopedia. 1998 ed.

Magazine article

Murphy, Astin. "Make Way for the Ducks." Sports Illustrated 29 Sept 2003: 54-59.

Newspaper article

Callimachi, Rukmini. "Bi-Mart Offers Employee Buyout." The Seattle Times 19 Feb. 2004: E3.

Article from journal with continuous pagination

Pace, Judith L. "Revisiting Classroom Authority: Theory and Ideology Meet Practice." Teachers College Record 105 (2003): 1559-86.

Article from journal with new pagination in each issue

Rogoff, Kenneth. "Globalization and Global Disinflation." Economic Review 88.4 (2003): 45-79.

Government publication

United States. Cong. Congressional Budget Office. The Economic and Budget Outlook: Fiscal Years 1999-2008. Washington: GPO, 1998.

Television or radio program

Holy Cow. Narr. Edward Herrmann. Dir. Harry Marshall. PBS. KCTS, Seattle. 22 Feb. 2004.

Motion picture (Video cassette)

Wiping the Tears of Seven Generations. Dir. Gary Rhine and Fidel Moreno. Kifaru Productions, 1992.

Motion picture (DVD)

Wiping the Tears of Seven Generations. Dir. Gary Rhine and Fidel Moreno. 1992. DVD. Kifaru Productions, 2004.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Online periodical article from an electronic database (i.e. Proquest)

Weyandt, Lisa, et al. "The Internal Restlessness Scale: Performance of College Students With and Without ADHD." Journal of Learning Disabilities 36 (2003): pp.382-. Research Library. Proquest. Olympic College Haselwood Lib. 20 Jan. 2004 <<http://proquest.umi.com>>.

Online periodical article from a website

Dickey, Christopher. "Garbage In, Garbage Out." Newsweek 20 Feb. 2004. 23 Feb. 2004 <<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4315416/>>.

Article from a CD-ROM

Abbott, Andrew. "The Causal Devolution." Sociological Methods & Research. 27 (1998): 148-181. Proquest Searchware. CD-ROM. UMI-Proquest.

Document from a website, with author(s) and date of publication

Kochanek, Kenneth, and Joyce Martin. "Supplemental Analyses of Recent Trends in Infant Mortality." 11 Feb. 2004. National Center for Health Statistics 20 Feb. 2004 <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/infantmort/infantmort.htm>>.

Information from a website, no author, no date

"What Are the Symptoms of PTSD?" Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Alliance. 20 Feb. 2007 <http://www.ptsdalliance.org/about_symp.html>.

Entire website

CNN.com. 2002. Cable News Network. 15 May 2002 <<http://www.cnn.com>>.

Online government publication

United States. Dept. of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Capital Punishment, 2005. By Tracy L. Snell. Dec. 2006. 20 Feb. 2007 <<http://www.ojp.esdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cp05.pdf>>.

Email

Doe, John J. "Re:Photography." E-mail to the author. 23 Jan. 2004.

Online posting (discussion group, listserv, etc.)

Dewsbery, Victor. "Re: electrical installations." Online posting. 24 Sept. 1999. Term. 27 Feb. 2004 <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/term/message/106>>.

Weblog ("blog") entry

Jerz, Dennis G. "Citing a Weblog in MLA Style." [Weblog entry.] Jerz's Literacy Weblog. 11 Dec 2003. Seton Hill University. 01 Mar. 2004 <<http://jerz.setonhill.edu/weblog/permalink.jsp?id=2000>>.

SAMPLE WORKS CITED LIST

Your "Works Cited" page(s) should include your last name and page number in the upper right hand corner and the title "Works Cited" centered on the page. Entries should be in alphabetical order by author, double-spaced throughout, and subsequent lines of individual entries are indented ½".

Williams 16

Works Cited

Callimachi, Rukmini. "Bi-Mart Offers Employee Buyout." The Seattle Times 19 Feb. 2004: E3.

Dickey, Christopher. "Garbage In, Garbage Out." Newsweek 20 Feb. 2004. 23 Feb. 2004

<<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4315416/>>.

Murphy, Astin. "Make Way for the Ducks." Sports Illustrated 29 Sept 2003: 54-59.

Pace, Judith L. "Revisiting Classroom Authority: Theory and Ideology Meet Practice." Teachers College Record 105 (2003): 1559-86.

Sobieszek, Robert. "Photography." The World Book Encyclopedia. 1998 ed.

Weyandt, Lisa, et al. "The Internal Restlessness Scale: Performance of College Students With and Without ADHD." Journal of Learning Disabilities 36 (2003): pp.382-. Research Library.

Proquest. Olympic College Haselwood Lib. 20 Jan. 2004 <<http://proquest.umi.com>>.

Wiping the Tears of Seven Generations. Dir. Gary Rhine and Fidel Moreno. Kifaru Productions, 1992.