

PARENTHETICAL CITATION and the WORKS CITED: MLA STYLE

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The MLA style (MLA Handbook, 2009) allows documentation of an abbreviated kind to appear in the body of your essay in parentheses, thus eliminating all but explanatory or elucidatory footnotes. The parenthetical citations will refer your reader to a list of “Works Cited” (see below) in which all sources quoted or referred to will be alphabetically arranged.

Parenthetical Citation

1. Author’s name mentioned. If you introduce a quotation or fact or paraphrase by mentioning the author’s name, you need only give the pagination.

An early authority on fairy tales, Henry Bett, claims that the whole study was shoddy but “very instructive” (53).

Note: When a quotation ends with an exclamation mark or a question mark, leave the punctuation inside the quotation marks and place the period after the parentheses: Bett thought that the whole study was shoddy but “very instructive!” (53).

2. Author’s name not mentioned. If you do not mention the author’s name before you quote, you should include the last name in parentheses with no punctuation between the name and the page number

One early authority on fairy tales referred to the whole study as a shoddy but “very instructive” exercise (Bett 53).

3. Author unknown. Some very old documents, and some very new on-line ones, may not have a known author, or may not state an author’s name. You can signal the title of the work, or include a short title in parentheses.

The Harvard Report on Baseball Deaths had no firm figures for 1911.

One source had no firm figures for 1911 (*Harvard*).

n.b. Book titles are italicized; article titles are placed between quotation marks.

4. Page number unknown. Many web sources have no page numbers. You may omit the page number and just use the author’s name or the title of the article.

Researchers have noticed a sharp rise in death by boredom at major golf tournaments (Duffer).

Duffer says that golfing head injuries are on the rise (“Golf Woes”).

If a web source uses paragraph or screen numbers, use “par.” or “pars.” or “Screen” in parentheses: (Duffer pars. 2-3).

5. Two or more authors. Include the last names in parentheses as they are listed in the text from which you are citing.

(Duffer and Curses 45)

For more than three authors use “et al.” (Duffer et al 45).

6. A multi-volume work. Give the number of the volume followed by a colon and then the page number.

In the second volume of Hegel’s *Aesthetics*, he discusses the sublime features of the puppet show (2: 350-355).

7. Verse plays and poems. Give the act, scene, and line numbers from the play. Separate these with periods.

In *King Lear* Gloucester cries foul when his eyes are taken out (4.2 148-149).

Or if the play’s name is not mentioned, include it in the citation.

This is similar to the moment when Gloucester loses his eyes (*Lear*, 4.2 148-149).

When quoting poetry, give the line numbers and show the line breaks.

In Cowper’s, *The Task*, the author says that Milton’s poetry “surpassed/
Of my boyish tongue/ To speak its excellence” (4. 710-12).

When quoting three or more lines of poetry, do not use quotation marks (unless they appear in the text itself) and indent the quotation one tab. You do not need to use slashes to show line breaks in this case, but must be sure to reproduce the text precisely.

In "Inchoate Road" bp Nichol traces the language of place, reading in the Assiniboine and Red Rivers

those
alphabets these
rivers
strokes of
pens together in the plain
words dried ink dyes
strained thru books (3 14-19)

8. Placement of parenthetical reference. When quoting part of a sentence (or line of poetry) or less than three sentences (or lines), put the quotation in quotation marks and integrate it into your own text, changing tense and grammar as needed. In this case, the parenthetical reference follows the closing quotation mark (with one space in between) and punctuation follows the parenthetical reference: i.e. ...end of quotation" (Smith 31). When quoting more than three sentences, indent the quotation. You do not need to use quotation marks in this case, since the indent serves the same symbolic purpose as quotation marks for longer quotations. For longer, indented quotation, the quotation is closed with punctuation and the parenthetical reference follows the closing punctuation:
i.e. ... end of quotation. (Smith 31)

Works Cited

The list of works cited appears at the end of your essay, following your last sentence. It is organized alphabetically by the authors' last names and by the names of sources for which the author is unknown. The works cited should be double spaced, with no extra space left between entries. The first line of each entry, with the author's last name or the name of the source when the author is unknown, is flush with the left margin. All subsequent lines in each entry are indented. The works cited must include every work from which you quote or to which you refer in the essay, and must not include any you do not actually cite. The works cited must match the parenthetical references in your essay: i.e. if you refer in the essay to Smith, then Smith must be the point of identification for that source in the works cited.

There are many possible sources across a range of media. You may be quoting from print and web materials, films, interviews, radio programs, class notes, letters, emails, TV shows, videos, DVDs, advertisements, or other sources. In order to ensure that you are quoting from and citing your sources correctly, check the online citation guides available through the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, "Using MLA Style to Cite and Document Sources" (<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/english/mla/index.cfm>).

The basic principle of MLA style, however, is that there are certain necessary fields for every type of citation. Examples are provided here for print and online books, and for print and online articles. For all other sources, as well as for edited volumes, later editions, reprints, translations, works without authors, works with multiples authors, or multiple works by a single author, please check the online citation guides or the *MLA Handbook*.

A print book. 1 Author (last name first)
2 Title and subtitle (underlined or italicized)
3 City of publication
4 Publisher
5 Date of publication
6 Medium

1 2 3 4 5 6
Michaels, Anne. *Fugitive Pieces*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1996. Print.

An online book. 1 Author (last name first)
2 Title and subtitle (underlined or italicized)
3 Title of web site (underlined or italicized)
4 Sponsor of site
5 Update date ("n.d." if there is no date)
6 Medium
7 Date of access

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Milton, John. *Paradise Lost: Book I*. Poetryfoundation.org. Poetry Foundation, 2008. Web. 14 Dec. 2008.

An article in a periodical. 1 Author (last name first)
2 Title and subtitle of article (in quotation marks—*not* underlined or italicized)
3 Name of periodical (underlined or italicized)
4 Volume and issue number (for scholarly journal)
5 Date or year of publication
6 Inclusive page numbers
7 Medium

1 2 3
Gerson, Carole. "The *Snow Drop* and *The Maple Leaf*: Canada's First Periodicals for Children." *Canadian Children's Literature* 18-19 (1980): 10-23. Print.
4 5 6 7

An article accessed online. 1 Author (last name first)
2 Title of article (in quotation marks—*not* underlined or italicized)
3 Name of periodical, volume and issue numbers
4 Date of publication
5 Inclusive page numbers
6 Name of database (underlined or italicized)
7 Medium of database
8 Date of access

1 2 3
Davis, Rocío G. "A Graphic Self: Comics as Autobiography in Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*." *Prose Studies: History, Theory, Criticism* 27.3 (2005): 264-79. EBSCOhost. Web. Dec. 18, 2009.
4 5 6 7 8

A work in an anthology. 1 Author (last name first)
2 Title of work (in quotation marks)
3 Title of anthology (underlined or italicized)
4 Editor(s) (names not reversed)
5 Place of publication
6 Publisher
7 Date of publication
8 Inclusive page numbers
9 Medium

1 2 3 4
Erdrich, Louise. "Dear John Wayne." *The Longman Anthology of World Literature. Volume F. The Twentieth Century*. Ed. Djelal Kadir and Ursula K. Heise. New York: Pearson Longman, 2004. 737-38. Print.
5 6 7 8 9

A DVD. Note that the title of the film/DVD appears first.
Finding Neverland. Dir. Marc Forster. Perf. Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, Julie Christie, Radha Mitchell, and Dustin Hoffman. Miramax, 2004. DVD.

Please note that your essay must include page numbers and your last name in the top right corner of every page. There should be no separate title page. Your name, the course title, the instructor's name, and the date of the assignment should appear in the top left corner of the first page only, double spaced. The title of your essay should appear immediately below this information, and the essay should begin immediately below the title. Double space the entire essay, including the works cited. Do not leave extra space between paragraphs. Your essay title should not be underlined. You should use a 12 point font throughout the essay.

Your Name

ENGL course number

Instructor's Name

Date

The Really Interesting Title of Your Essay including the Title and Author of the Work You Are Discussing

Your essay should begin with the first paragraph indented. You should leave margins of around an inch on all sides, as we have done on this sample page. The text of your essay will be flush with the left margin, but the right margin should remain unjustified. If you try to align the right margin, it may interfere with spacing in your essay. When you are quoting, it is productive to use signal phrases whenever you can: in this way, you can integrate quoted material and identify the author of the material you are quoting. You might signal a quotation in this way: as Smith has suggested, “quoting is the best way to demonstrate to your reader why s/he should believe the claims you are making about a particular work of literature” (72). If you are not identifying the author in your sentence, you need to be sure to identify him or her in the parenthetical reference following the quotation (Smith 72). It is very important to familiarize yourself with the elements of MLA style that are relevant to your essay. Use the online library resources to find the correct way of citing and documenting all the sources you use in your essay.

Begin your next paragraph in the same way, indenting it and not leaving extra space between the two paragraphs.