

Writing in MLA Format

Who uses MLA?

- English Studies
- Foreign Language Studies
- Comparative Literature
- Cultural Studies
- Literary Criticism

In-text Citations in MLA

Quoting

- When you use a quote, you are using someone else's words, word for word.
- We quote for four different reasons:
 1. To support a point
 2. To show credible authority
 3. To use in an introduction or a conclusion
 4. To show emphasis
- MLA format uses quotations quite frequently, so it is important to know how to properly cite quotes in your paper.
- There are multiple ways to do an in-text citation. One is to introduce your source in the sentence, e.g., "C.S. Lewis once said, 'No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear'(4).
- You can also tack the citation at the end of the quotation. "No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear" (Lewis 4).
- For longer citations, which are classified as more than four lines of prose, you place the quotation in a freestanding block and do not put any quotation marks. You start the quote on a new line and indent.

I wanted to tell the book thief many things, about beauty and brutality. But what could I tell her about those things that she didn't already know? I wanted to explain that I am constantly overestimating and underestimating the human race-that rarely do I ever simply estimate it. I wanted to ask her how the same things could be so ugly and so glorious, and its words and stories so derogatory and brilliant (Zusak 550).

- When citing poetry, be sure to keep the formatting as close to the original as possible.

"You may write me down in history
With your bitter twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room" (Angalou)

Paraphrasing

- Paraphrasing is taking someone else's words or ideas and putting them in your own words.
- Even though a person is not being directly quoted, the author still needs to be cited, since it is their ideas that are being used.
- Paraphrasing would look something like this:
 1. Original text: Ballroom dancing is an enjoyable pastime. It is loved by many people.
 2. Paraphrase: One fun activity that many people delight in is ballroom dancing.
- A paraphrase is cited exactly like a quote, with the last name and page number in parentheses.

MLA Format

Last name Page number

First name Last Name

Class Name

Instructor or professor's name

Date

Title of Paper

Indent the first line of the paragraph, but do not indent the rest of the sentences in the paragraph.

Example

Granger 1
Hermione Granger
ENG 111 01WAM
Professor McGonagall
14 September, 2006
The Process of Training Dragons

Citations in MLA

- All the resources cited in the text are listed on the Works Cited page at the end of the paper. This allows readers access to the resources used to write the paper.
- In both APA format and MLA format, sources should be listed in alphabetical order. You also need to have a hanging indent. A hanging indent is a regular indentation, that is reversed. Rather than the first line being indented and the rest not, in a hanging indent, the first line is not indented while every line after is indented.
- MLA has nine requirements when citing
 1. Author
 2. Title of source.
 3. Title of container,

4. Other contributors,

5. Version,

6. Number,

7. Publisher,

8. Publication date,

9. Location.

- These requirements are expected to be in a certain order, and have certain punctuation.

- Author last name, first name. "Title of source". *Title of container*, other contributors (translators, editors, etc.), version, number/volume, publisher, publication date, location (page number or URL).

- Remember, if you do not have some of the information; that is okay, just skip that part of the citation.

Example

Works Cited

Beowulf, translation by Heaney, Seamus, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2000, p.

35.

Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362,
[Accessed 20 May 2009](#).

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003,
www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/. Accessed 10 May 2006.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. "The Interview". *The Scarlet Letter*. Bantem Bell, 2003.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, HarperCollins Publishers, 2002, pp. 103-105.