

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA) STYLE

MLA style is mainly used by students in English and the Humanities. It consists of two parts: a list of works cited, and parenthetical references within the text of your essay.

For further assistance in writing research papers and citing sources in the MLA style, consult:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th ed. PN 147 G525 2009

MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing. 3rd ed. PN 147 M527 2008

List of Works Cited

This is a list of all the sources you have used to research your paper.

1. The list of works cited appears on a separate page at the end of the essay. It is titled (centred, no quotation marks, no underline):

Works Cited

2. The list is arranged alphabetically by the author's last name, or, if there is no author, by the first word in the title. When arranging the list ignore, but do not omit, "The", "An" or "A" at the beginning of the title.
3. After the first line each entry is indented ½ inch or 5 spaces. Each entry presents information in a specific order: the author's name, the title, the publication information.
4. Double-space the entire list, both between and within entries.
5. If a book does not give the publisher, or the place or date, then give what information you might know in square brackets []. Use the abbreviation **n.p.** if the publisher or the place is not known. If the date is not obvious then use the abbreviation **n.d.**
6. The medium of publication must be listed for every entry in the list of works cited (e.g., Print, Web, DVD).

Print Sources (Non-Electronic)

Books

Book, Basic Format

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Reference | Author. <i>Title of Book</i> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Medium. |
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Book, One Author

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Reference | Kradin, Richard. <i>The Placebo Response and the Power of Unconscious Healing</i> . New York: Routledge, 2008. Print. |
| Comments | When citing the place of publication, it is not necessary to include the state, province or country after the city name. Use a shortened form of the publisher's names. Omit terms such as <i>Books, House, Press, Publishers</i> and abbreviations such as <i>Co., Corp., Inc., and Ltd.</i> However, when citing a university press, always add the abbreviation <i>P</i> (e.g., Iowa State UP). When a publisher's name includes the name of a single person, cite the surname alone (e.g. John Wiley would be cited Wiley). If the publisher's name includes the names of more than one person, cite only the first of the surnames (e.g., Prentice Hall would be cited Prentice). (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 151, 247) |

Book, Two or More Authors

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Reference | Brym, Robert J., John Lie, and Steven Rytina. <i>Sociology: Your Compass for a New World</i> . Toronto: Nelson Educational, 2010. Print. |
| Comments | Cite the author's names in the same order as they appear on the title page or journal citation even if it is not in alphabetical order. Reverse the name of only the first author. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 154) |

Book, Corporate Author

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Reference | Canadian Health Information Management Association. <i>Fundamentals of Health Information Management</i> . Ottawa: Canadian Healthcare Association, 2009. Print. |
| Comments | Leave out the initial article and do not abbreviate the corporate author name. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 156) |

Book, No Author

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Reference | <i>American Heritage Dictionary for Learners of English</i> . Boston: Houghton, 2002. Print. |
|-----------|--|

Book, One Editor

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Reference | Gryzb, Amanda F., ed. <i>The World and Darfur: International Response to Crimes Against Humanity in Western Sudan</i> . Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 2009. Print. |
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Book, Two or More Editors

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Reference | Kowaluk, Lucia and Steven Staples, eds. <i>Afghanistan and Canada: Is There an Alternative to War?</i> Montreal: Black Rose, 2009. Print. |
| Comments | If there is one editor, use ed., more than one use eds. after the editor's name(s). (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 154) |

Book, Published in a Second or Subsequent Edition

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Reference | Taylor, Robert L. <i>Psychological Masquerade: Distinguishing Psychological from Organic Disorders</i> . 3 rd ed. New York: Springer, 2007. Print. |
|-----------|---|

Book, Work in an Anthology

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Reference | Brant, Beth. "Coyote Learns a New Trick." <i>An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English</i> . Ed. Daniel David Moses and Terry Goldie. Toronto: Oxford UP, 1992. 148-150. Print. |
| Comments | Begin the entry with the author and title of the piece (essay, poem, short story etc.). (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 157) |

Book, Book in Translation

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Reference | Paz, Octavio. <i>In Light of India</i> . Trans. Eliot Weinberger. New York: Harcourt, 1997. Print. |
| Comments | If the book has both an editor and a translator, give the names with the appropriate abbreviations (Ed., Trans.) in the order that they appear on the book's title page. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 164) |

Encyclopedia Articles – Print Sources

Encyclopedia, Articles

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Reference | Reynolds, Frank E. "The Buddha and Buddhism." <i>The Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropedia</i> . 15th ed. 2005. Print. |
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Encyclopedia, Articles – No Author

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|-----------|---|
| Reference | "Hackney." <i>The Encyclopedia Americana</i> . 1989 ed. Print. |
| Comments | Do not give the full publication information if the reference work is widely used. If a reference work is not well known, provide the full publication information. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 160) |

Journal / Magazine Articles- Print Sources

Journal, Article (print) Basic Format

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| Reference | Author. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i> Volume.Issue (Publication year): Pages. Medium. |
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Journal, Article (print)

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| Reference | Kiyak, Emine. "A New Nonpharmacological Method in Fibromyalgia: The Use of Wool." <i>Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine</i> 15.4 (2009): 399-405. Print. |
| Comments | After the journal name, give the volume number and the issue number separated by a period. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 140) |

Magazine, Article (print)

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Reference | Bolster, Mary. "Energize Your Life." <i>Natural Health</i> Mar. 2009: 10+. Print. |
| Comments | When an article does not appear on consecutive pages, write only the first page number and a plus sign, leaving no intervening space. Do not give the volume and issue numbers even if they are listed. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 143) |

Newspaper, Article (print)

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| Reference | Crawshaw, Caitlin. "Are You the Office Problem." <i>Vancouver Sun</i> 9 May 2009: H. 10. Print. |
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Newspaper, Article – No Author (print)

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| Reference | "Oval Distinguished for Innovative Design." <i>Vancouver Sun</i> 16 May 2009: A14. Print. |
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Government Documents – Print Sources

Government Documents

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|-----------|---|
| Reference | MacIver, D.C. <i>Atmospheric Change in Canada: An Integrated Overview</i> . Ottawa: Environment Canada, 1999. Print. |
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|-----------|---|
| Reference | British Columbia. Ministry of Forests. <i>Providing for the Future: Sustainable Forest Management in British Columbia</i> . Victoria: Ministry of Forests, 1996. Print. |
| Comments | If you do not know the author of the document, treat the government agency as the author. Give the name of the government followed by the name of the agency. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 175) |

Online/Electronic Sources

Online Journal, Magazine and Newspaper Articles

When citing items retrieved from a library database include the:

- Publication information,
- Name of the database in italics,
- Medium (Web)
- Date of access (day, month, and year).

Journal, Article from a Library Database, Basic Format

| | |
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| Reference | Author. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i> Volume.Issue (Publication year): Pages. <i>Database Name</i> . Medium. Date of Access. |
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Journal, Article (article is available in a library database)

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|-----------|---|
| Reference | Finch, Raymond J. "Trauma and Forgiveness: A Spiritual Inquiry." <i>Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health</i> 9.2 (2007): 27-43. <i>Academic Search Complete</i> . Web. 6 June 2009. |
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Newspaper, Article (article is available in a library database)

| | |
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| Reference | Sanders, Carol. "Arctic Voyage to Focus on Climate Change." <i>Winnipeg Free Press</i> 11 May 2009: B.3. <i>Canadian Newsstand</i> . Web. 6 June 2009. |
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Magazine, Article (article is available in a library database)

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| Reference | Cuda, Amanda. "Fight Allergies with Acupressure." <i>Massage Magazine</i> Mar. 2009: 88-89. <i>Alt HealthWatch</i> . Web. 6 June 2009. |
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Journal, Article (article is freely available on the internet)

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| Reference | Botha, Marc. "How to Lose Your Voice Well." <i>Postmodern Culture</i> 17.2 (2007): n. pag. Web. 18 June 2009. |
| Comments | Provide the publication information as you would for a print journal. If the source does not have page numbers use 'n. pag.'. Provide the medium and the date of access. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 187) |

Magazine, Article (article is freely available on the internet)

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| Reference | Miller, Laura. "The Evolutionary Argument for Dr. Seuss." <i>Salon.com</i> . Salon Media Group, 18 May 2009. Web. 19 June 2009. |
| Comments | If the publisher or sponsor of the site is not available, use the abbreviation "N.p." (for "no publisher") in the sponsor position. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 184) |

Newspaper, Article (Article is freely available on the internet)

| | |
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| Reference | Skerritt, Jen. "Local Liver Specialists Struggle to Keep up with Hep-C Influx." <i>Winnipeg Free Press</i> . Winnipeg Free Press, 20 May 2009. Web. 24 June 2009. |
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Websites

Website citations contain most of the following components:

- Name of the author or editor
- Title of the site, italicized
- Sponsor or publisher of the site. If a sponsor or publisher is not available, use the abbreviation "N.p." (for "No publisher").
- Date of publication or last update. If this is not available, use "n.d." (for "no date").
- Medium of publication (Web).
- Date of access (day, month, year).

You would only need to include the URL when your instructor requires it, or when the reader would not be able to locate the source without it. If you must include the URL, enclose it in angle brackets at the end of the entry.

Entire Website

| | |
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| Reference | Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. <i>The William Blake Archive</i> . Lib. Of Cong., 28 Sept. 2007. Web. 24 Aug. 2009. |
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| Reference | <i>The Amazing Time Machine</i> . British Columbia Archives, 2002. Web. 15 Sept. 2009. |
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| Reference | <i>MADD Canada</i> . Mothers Against Drunk Driving, n.d. Web. 17 Sept. 2009. |
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Document within a Website

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| Reference | "Developing an Outline." <i>The OWL at Purdue</i> . Purdue U Online Writing Lab, 2008. Web. 15 Sept. 2009. |
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| Reference | "Meet the Salmon People: Species and Stocks." <i>David Suzuki Foundation</i> . David Suzuki Foundation, 2009. Web. 23 Aug. 2009. |
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| Reference | Harding, Anne. "Man Detained at Airport After Chemo Drug Wipes Out Fingerprints." <i>CNN.com</i> . Cable News Network, 27 May 2009. Web. 16 July 2009. |
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Blogs

| | |
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| Reference | Clarke, Lindsey and Matt Brown. <i>Londonist</i> . Gothamist, 21 May 2009. Web. 21 May 2009. |
| Comments | Cite a blog as you would an entire website. |

Encyclopedia or Dictionary, Online

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|-----------|---|
| Reference | Bumsted, J.M. "Red River Rebellion." <i>The Canadian Encyclopedia</i> . Historical Foundation of Canada, 2009. Web. 23 July 2009. |
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| Reference | "Alcatraz." <i>The Canadian Oxford Dictionary</i> . Oxford University Press, 2009. Web. 21 July 2009. |
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Digital Files

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| Reference | Hansen, Stin. "Meditation Station Podcast." <i>LearnOutLoud.com</i> . LearnOutLoud, 2009. MP3 file. |
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| Reference | Hudson, Jennifer, perf. "And I am Telling You I'm Not Going." <i>Dreamgirls: Music from the Motion Picture</i> . Sony BMG, 2006. MP3 file. |
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| Reference | Delano, Jack. <i>At the Vermont State Fair</i> . 1941. Lib. of Cong., Washington. JPEG file. |
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| Comments | Digital files can exist independently from the Internet. They can include sound recordings, scanned images, PDF files stored on your computer etc. The MLA handbooks advises one to "determine the kind of work you are citing (e.g., a book, a typescript, a photograph, a sound recording), and follow the relevant guidelines. In the place reserved for the medium of publication, record the digital file format, followed by the word <i>file</i> – <i>PDF file</i> , <i>Microsoft Word file</i> , <i>JPEG file</i> , <i>MP3 file</i> , <i>XML file</i> , and so on—neither italicized (except for titles of software programs) nor enclosed in quotation marks....If you cannot identify the file type, use <i>Digital file</i> ." (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 211) |
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Films, YouTube

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| Reference | Baker, N. "March of the Librarians." <i>YouTube</i> . YouTube, 7 Feb. 2007. Web. 19 June 2009. |
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Book, Online

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| Reference | Shaw, Bernard. <i>Pygmalion</i> . New York: Brentano, 1916. <i>Bartleby.com</i> . Web. 25 Mar. 2009. |
| Comments | Begin the entry with the details about the print publication if it is available. Follow this with the title of the web site or database which it appears, the medium, and your date of access. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 210) |

Wikipedia, Articles

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| Reference | "Clairvoyance." <i>Wikipedia</i> . Wikipedia Foundation, 20 May 2009. Web. 21 May 2009. |
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Email

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| Reference | Greve, Miranda. "Potential topics." Message to the author. 18 June 2009. E-mail. |
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Online Government Documents

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| Reference | British Columbia. Ministry of Children and Family Development. <i>Early Intervention Therapy Program Guidelines</i> . Victoria: Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2009. Web. 19 June 2009. |
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| Reference | Canada. Environment Canada. <i>The Canadian Stratospheric Ozone Primer</i> . Ottawa: Environment Canada, 1998. Web. 19 July 2009. |
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| Reference | Canada. Status of Women Canada. <i>Data Sources on Immigrant Women</i> . By Marcia Almey. Ottawa: Status of Women Canada, 1997. Web. 19 June 2009. |
| Comments | Treat the government agency as the author. Give the name of the government (e.g. Canada) followed by the name of the agency. If the name of the document's author is known, the author's name can "either begin the entry or, if the agency comes first, follow the title and the word <i>By</i> or an abbreviation (such as <i>Ed.</i> or <i>Comp.</i>)". (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 176) |

Films (DVD, Video)

| | |
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| Reference | <i>Black Robe</i> . Screenplay by Brian Moore. Dir. Bruce Beresford. Perf. Lothaire Bluteau. Alliance Atlantis, 1991. DVD. |
| Comments | A citation for a film “usually begins with the title, italicized, and includes the director, the distributor, the year of release, and the medium consulted. You may include other data that seems pertinent – such as the names of the screenwriter, performers, and producer-between the title and the distributor...Cite a DVD, videocassette, laser disc, slide program, or filmstrip as you would a film. Include the original release date when it is relevant.” (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 197) |

Music – Sound Recordings

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Reference | Beethoven, Ludwig van. <i>Symphony No. 9 in D Minor “Choral.”</i> Perf. Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Elisabeth Hongen, Hans Hopf, and Otto Edelmann. Chor und Orchester der Bayreuther Festspiele. Cond. Wilhelm Furtwangler. Rec. 29 July 1951. EMI, 1998. CD. Great Recordings of the Century. |
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| Reference | Holiday, Billie. <i>The Essence of Billie Holiday</i> . Columbia, 1991. CD. |
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| Reference | Blige, Mary J. “Enough Cryin.” <i>The Breakthrough</i> . Geffen, 2005. CD. |
| Comments | Begin the entry with the name of the person you most want to emphasize (e.g., the composer, conductor, ensemble, or performer). List the title in italics, the artist or artists (such as performers or musicians), the manufacturer, the year of issue, the medium, and the date of publication. If you are citing a song, put the song title in quotation marks and italicize the name of the CD or album. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 195) |

CD-ROM

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| Reference | <i>Smokefree Spaces: Activist Tool Kit</i> . Ottawa: Health Canada, 2005. CD-ROM. |
| Comments | Treat a nonperiodical publication on CD-ROM as you would a book, but add CD-ROM as the medium of publication. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 208) |

Further Examples

Interviews

Published interviews:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Reference | Gordimer, Nadine. Interview. <i>New York Times</i> 10 Oct. 1991, late ed.: C25. Print. |
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Interviews conducted by yourself:

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| Reference | Rewniak, Christine. Personal interview. 4 June 2009. |
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Brochures/Pamphlets

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|-----------|--|
| Reference | McPherson, Cathy. <i>Responding to the Abuse of People with Disabilities</i> . Toronto: Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped, 1990. Print. |
| Comments | Treat a pamphlet as you would a book. (<i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009, p. 174) |

Advertisements

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Reference | Westjet. Advertisement. <i>Maclean's</i> 18 May 2009: 35. Print. |
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Parenthetical References:

These are references in the body of the paper that document quotations, paraphrases, and the direct use of information and ideas. They are used instead of footnotes or endnotes. References appear in parenthesis within the text of the essay.

The parenthetical references correspond to the list of works cited. In other words, the **information given in the parenthetical reference should make it absolutely clear to the reader which source is being referred to** in your list of Works Cited.

If your Works Cited includes only one title by a particular author or editor, you only need to place the author's last name and the relevant page number(s) without any intervening punctuation in your parenthetical reference.

Keep the references in parentheses as brief as possible. If you mention the author's name or the title of the source in your text, then you do not include that information in the parenthetical reference.

e.g. This point has been argued before (Pollack 32-34).

Pollack has argued this point (32-34).

Others, like Blocker and Plumer (52), hold an opposite point of view.

Stress and a poor diet can have a detrimental effect on proper liver functioning (American Medical Association 209).

If the work has more than three authors, give the first author's last name followed by "et al." then the page number(s).

e.g. Some interesting interpretations of this concept have recently been suggested (Jones et al. 25-37).

If there are two or more titles by the same author in your Works Cited list, give the author's last name, the title, followed by the page number(s). Abbreviate the title if it is longer than a few words. When abbreviating the title, begin with the first word.

e.g. The fashion was very popular in certain parts of Northern England (Pollack, *Dickinson* 32-33).

(In the example, 'Dickinson' is the shortened title of Pollack's *Dickinson: The Anxiety of Gender*).

If there is no author, use the title, abbreviated if necessary, followed by the page number(s).

e.g. He was cut up and boiled in a cauldron by Titans sent by Hera (*Classical Mythology* 78).

Web documents usually do not have fixed page numbers or any kind of section numbering. If your online source does not have numbering, you have to omit numbers from your parenthetical references. Do not count unnumbered paragraphs. If your source has no pagination, it is to better include the author's name (or the name of the person that begins the corresponding entry in the works cited list) in the text rather than in a parenthetical reference.

e.g. Nicholas Winkfield compares the situation to the current political environment of Zimbabwe.

The works cited list would include an entry that begins with Winkfield.

If a web document does provide definite paragraph numbers, give the abbreviation *par.* or *pars.* along with the paragraph number or numbers

e.g. Devereux states that “Finley introduced energy psychology to modern psychiatry in the late twentieth century” (par. 30).

Citing Indirect Sources

If you are using a writer’s or a speaker’s quoted words in a source written by someone else, put the abbreviation *qtd. in* (“quoted in”) before the parenthetical reference.

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an “extraordinary man” (qtd. in Boswell 2: 450).

Works Cited

Boswell, James. *The Life of Johnson*. Ed. George Birkbeck Hill and L.F. Powell. 6 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1934-50. Print.

Quotations

Short Quotations

- If a quotation runs no more than four lines, put it in double quotation marks and incorporate it into the text. Put single quotation marks around quotations that appear within those quotations.
- Punctuation marks such as periods, commas, and semicolons should appear after the parenthetical reference. Other punctuation such as question marks and exclamation marks should appear within the quotation marks if they are part of the quoted passage, but after the parentheses if they are part of your text.

Examples

Shelley thought poets “the unacknowledged legislators of the World” (794).

Dorothea responds to her sister, “what a wonderful little almanac you are, Celia!” (7).

Long Quotations

- If a quotation runs to more than four lines in your paper, set it off from your text by beginning a new line, indent one inch or 10 spaces from the left margin, and type it double-spaced. For a single paragraph or part of a paragraph, do not indent the first line more than the rest of the quotation.
- Do not use opening and closing quotation marks.
- For long quotations, a period at the end of a quotation is placed before the parentheses.

Example

At the conclusion of *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (186)

Punctuation with Quotations

If you are quoting something a character says, use double quotation marks on the outside ends of the quotation to show that you are quoting a portion of the text. Use single quotation marks inside the double quotation marks to show that someone is speaking.

“You are not worthy of her love! You are a coward!” (Hellenga 207).

If you cite a passage of dialogue which exceeds four lines in length, you would follow the rule for long quotations, but would use double quotation marks at the beginning and end of the spoken portion to show that a character is speaking.