

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.,</i> and <i>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). (See pp. 151 & 247, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

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. (See p. 154, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

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. (See p. 156, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Book, No Author

Reference	<i>American Heritage Dictionary for Learners of English</i> . Boston: Houghton, 2002. Print.
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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	When there are more than one editor use eds. after the editors' names. (See p. 154, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

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. (See p. 164, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

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.
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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.). (See p. 157, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Article in a Reference Book, Signed

Reference	Reynolds, Frank E. "The Buddha and Buddhism." <i>The Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropedia</i> . 15th ed. 2005. Print.
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Article in a Reference Book, Unsigned

Reference	"Vancouver Island." <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. (See p. 160, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Journal / Magazine Articles- Print Sources

Journal, Article (print) Basic Format

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

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. (See p. 140, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

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. (See p. 143, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Newspaper, Article (print)

Reference	Fletcher, Pascal. "Castro's Sister Worked for CIA against Communism." <i>Vancouver Sun</i> 27 Oct. 2009: B6. Print.
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Newspaper, Article – No Author (print)

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

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. (See p. 175, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

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

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 (library database)

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 (library database)

Reference	Sanders, Carol. "Arctic Voyage to Focus on Climate Change." <i>Winnipeg Free Press</i> 11 May 2009: B3. <i>Canadian Newsstand</i> . Web. 6 June 2009.
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Magazine, Article (library database)

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 (internet)

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. (See p. 187, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Magazine, Article (internet)

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. (See p. 184, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Newspaper, Article (internet)

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 should contain most of the following components (if available):

- Name of the author or editor
 - Title of the work ('italicized if the work is independent; in roman type and quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work')
 - Title of the overall Web site (italicized), if it is distinct from the title of the work
 - Version or edition used
 - 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).
- (See p. 184, *MLA Handbook*, 2009)

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

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

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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Encyclopedia or Dictionary, Online

Reference	Bumsted, J.M. "Red River Rebellion." <i>The Canadian Encyclopedia</i> . Historica 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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Wikipedia, Articles

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

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. (See p. 210, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Online Government Documents

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.
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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>)". (See p. 176, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)
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Blogs

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.

Email

Reference	Greve, Miranda. "Potential topics." Message to the author. 18 June 2009. E-mail.
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Digital Files

Digital files can exist independently from the Internet. They can include sound recordings, scanned images, PDF files stored on your computer etc. The MLA handbook recommends one "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 *file* – *PDF file*, *Microsoft Word file*, *JPEG file*, *MP3 file*, *XML file*, and so on- neither italicized (except for titles of software programs) nor enclosed in quotation marks....If you cannot identify the file type, use *Digital file*." (See p. 211, *MLA Handbook*, 2009)

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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Film, DVD, Video

Reference	<i>Black Robe</i> . Screenplay by Brian Moore. Dir. Bruce Beresford. Perf. Lothaire Bluteau. Alliance Atlantis, 1991. DVD.
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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." (See p. 197, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)
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Videos, YouTube

Reference	Baker, N. "March of the Librarians." <i>YouTube</i> . YouTube, 7 Feb. 2007. Web. 19 June 2009.
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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. (See p. 195, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

CD-ROM

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. (See p. 208, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Other Sources

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:

Reference	Rewniak, Christine. Personal interview. 4 June 2010.
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Brochures/Pamphlets

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. (See p. 174, <i>MLA Handbook</i> , 2009)

Advertisements

Reference	Westjet. Advertisement. <i>Maclean's</i> 18 May 2009: 35. Print.
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Course Pack, Journal Article Reprinted in

Reference	John, V. "A Labour of Love?: Mothers and Emotion Work." <i>British Journal of Midwifery</i> 17.10 (2009): 636-640. Rpt. in <i>NURS 3130: Supplementary Readings</i> . Coquitlam, BC: Douglas College, 2009. 20-34. Print
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Course Notes on a Web Site/Blackboard Site

Reference	Domansky, Walter. "Key Points." <i>CRIM 1101 Comparative Justice Systems</i> . Course Blackboard page. Douglas College, Criminology Dept., Sept. – Dec. 2009. Web. 21 Sept. 2009.
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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 parentheses 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

It is always best to cite information from the original source. Sometimes, however, the only available source may be **an indirect** one. Within the text of your paper, cite the item used, not the item quoted, and within the parenthetical reference, the name and page number are preceded by the abbreviation, "qtd. in":

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

For your list of works cited, give the indirect source (Boswell) not the source quoted (Johnson).

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, indenting one inch from the left margin, and typing the block quotation 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)