

Documenting Online Sources---MGCCC

The Modern Language Association (MLA) is the documentation style preferred by a substantial majority of scholarly journals in languages and literature. The guidelines offered here are explained in detail in the sixth edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DOCUMENTING ONLINE SOURCES

1. Name of the author, editor, compiler, or translator of the source (if available and relevant), reversed for alphabetizing and followed by an abbreviation, such as ed., if appropriate
2. Title of a poem, short story, article, or similar short work within a scholarly project, database, or periodical (in quotation marks)
3. Title of a book (underlined)
4. Name of the editor, compiler, or translator of the text (if relevant and if not cited earlier), preceded by the appropriate abbreviation, such as ed.
5. Publication information for any print version of the source
6. Title of the scholarly project, database, periodical, or professional or personal site (underlined); or for a professional or personal site with no title, a description such as Home Page
7. Name of the editor of the scholarly project or database (if available)
8. Version number of the source (if not part of the title) or, for a journal, the volume number, issue number, or other identifying number
9. Date of electronic publication, of the latest update, or of posting
10. For a work from a subscription service, the name of the service and—if a library is the subscriber—the name and city (and state abbreviation, if necessary) of the library
11. For a posting to a discussion list or forum, the name of the list or forum
12. The number range or total number of pages, paragraphs, or other sections, if they are numbered
13. Name of any institution or organization sponsoring or associated with the Web site
14. Date when the researcher accessed the source
15. Electronic address, or URL, of the source (in angle brackets); or, for a subscription service, the URL of the service's main page (if known) or the keyword assigned by the service

Formula:

Author's last name, first name. [If no author is listed, begin with the title.] "Title of the Article." Title of the Journal Volume. Issue number (Year of publication): length of article. Name of Database used. Name of Search Service used. Name and Location of library. Date of access <http address of search service's starting page>. **Note:** The length of a full-text article can be stated in paragraphs (abbreviated pars.), number of screens, or pages if they are numbered.

OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

Note: The citations for the magazines and articles differ from the citations for the essays.

Citing from Viewpoints Magazines or Articles

Boyce, Nell. "The Clone is Out of the Bottle." U.S. News & World Report 23 Feb. 2004: 40. Opposing Viewpoints. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 20 Feb. 2005 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com/>>.

*Citing from **Viewpoints** Essays, which have been excerpted from books:*

Dority, Barbara. "Assisted Suicide Is the Ultimate Civil Right." Assisted Suicide. Ed. Laura K. Egendorf. Current Controversies Series. Greenhaven Press, 1998: 20 par. Opposing Viewpoints. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 11 Feb 2005. <<http://galenet.galegroup.com>>.

CQ RESEARCHER

Triplett, William. "Teen Driving." The CQ Researcher 7 Jan. 2005: 1-24. CQ Press. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 24 Feb. 2005 <<http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/>>.

FACTS.COM

"Morality in America." Issues and Controversies 15 Feb. 2005. FACTS.com. Facts On File News Services. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 24 Feb. 2005 <<http://www.2facts.com>>.

GALE LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTER

Lewin, Jennifer. "OedipusRex: An Overview." Drama for Students. Gale, 1997. Literature Resource Center. Gale. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 7 Apr. 2003 < <http://galenet.galegroup.com> >.

NEWSBANK

Polk, Peggy. "Pope's Will Goes Public." The Sun Herald 8 Apr. 2005: 29 par. NewsBankNewsFile Collection. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 8 Apr. 2005 <<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/>>.

DOCUMENTS FROM MAGNOLIA DATABASES

EBSCOHost

Hoffman, Thomas. "Y2K Failures Have Hit 75% of U.S. Firms." Computerworld 16 Aug. 1999: 28. Academic Search Elite. EBSCO. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 7 Mar. 2005 < <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/public.asp?id=22>>.

MAGILL ON LITERATURE PLUS

Updike, John. "Gertrude and Claudius." Magill's Literary Annual 2001. Salem Press. Magill on Literature Plus. EBSCO. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 5 Mar. 2005 < <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/public.asp?id=22>>.

CONTEMPORARY LITERARY CRITICISM SELECT

Original Database Document (No print source)

"Eudory Welty." Contemporary Literary Criticism Select. Gale. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 1 Mar. 2005 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com> >.

Previously Published Articles

Brooks, Cleanth. "Eudora Welty and the Southern Idiom." Eudora Welty: A Form of Thanks. Eds. Louis Dollarhide and Ann J. Abadie. 1979. University Press of Mississippi. Contemporary Literary Criticism Select. Gale. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 1 Mar. 2005 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com> >.

Cuiba, Gary M. "Time and Confluence: Self and Structure in Welty's One Writer's Beginnings." The Southern Literary Journal Fall 1993: 78-93. Contemporary Literary Criticism Select. Gale. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 1 Mar. 2005 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com> >.

DISCOVERING COLLECTION

Original Database Document (no print source)

"John Grisham." DISCovering Authors. Online Edition. Gale, 2003. Discovering Collection. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 07 Apr. 2005 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com/>>.

Previously Published Article

Toobin, Jeffrey, "Still More Lawyer-Bashing from Novelist John Grisham." Chicago Tribune--Books 23 Feb. 1992. DISCovering Authors. Online Edition. Gale, 2003. Discovering Collection. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 07 April 2005 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com/>>.

GENERAL BUSINESS FILES ASAP (Infotrac)

Van Biema, David. "O, Say, Can You Pray? A Grass-roots Ritual by Young Christians Tests Church-and-State Borders." Time 28 Sept. 1998: 68. General Business Files ASAP. Gale Group. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 7 Apr. 2005 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com> >.

WILSONWEB BIOGRAPHIES

"John Steinbeck." World Authors 1900-1950. Wilson Biographies 1996. WilsonWeb. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lib., Gulfport, MS. 7 Mar. 2005 <<http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/>>.

DOCUMENTS FROM THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Formula:

Author's Name (if known). "Full title of the work." Title of the Complete Work (if applicable). For a professional or personal page with no title, use a description such as *Home Page*. Document date (if known). Name of the Institution or Organization associated with the site. Date of access <full http address>.

Article from a professional or personal site

Rice, Anne. "Burning Thoughts." Anne Rice.com: The Official Site. 07 Apr. 2005 <http://www.annerice.com/ac_BurningThoughts.htm >.

Article from a magazine

Woodward, Kenneth L. "Does God Belong on the Stump?" Newsweek 11 September 2000. 15 Sept. 2000 <www.msnbc.com/news/454682.asp>.

Article from a newspaper or on a newswire

Baker, Tobie. "County Taxes Are Going Down, but Taxpayers Won't Notice It." The Daily Sentinel-Star 30 Aug. 2000. 4 Sept. 2000 <www.zwire.com/news/newsstory>.

Article from a scholarly journal

Calabrese, Michael. "Between Despair and Ecstasy: Marco Polo's Life of the Buddha." Exemplaria 9.1 (1997). 22 June 1998 <<http://web.english.ufl.edu/english/exemplaria/calax.htm>>.

An Online Book

**If you cannot find some of this information, cite what is available.*

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. Ed. Henry Churchyard. 1996. 10 Mar. 2005
< <http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pridprej.html> >.

A Part of an Online Book

**If you are citing a part of an online book, place the title or name of the part between the author's name and the title of the book. If the part is a work like a poem or an essay, place its title in quotation marks. If the part is a standard division of the book, such as an introduction or a preface, do not place the title in quotation marks or underline it. Be sure to give the URL of the specific part instead of that of the book if they differ.*

Keats, John. "Ode on a Grecian Urn." Poetical Works. 1884. Project Bartleby.
Ed. Steven van Leeuwen. May 1998. Columbia U. 7 Mar. 2005
< <http://www.bartleby.com/126/41.html> >.

A Letter to the Editor

Kung, Cleo. New York Times on the Web 23 June 1998. 28 June 1998
<<http://www.nytimes.com/yr/mo/day/letters/1kung.html>>.

Editorial

"Controlling Deadly Trade." Editorial. Christian Science Monitor: Electronic Edition 26 June 1998.
26 June 1998 <<http://www.csmonitor.com/Durable/1998/06/26/f-p16s1.htm>>.

MISSISSIPPI CODE

Mississippi. Secretary of State. Mississippi Code. 13 Jan. 1998. 63-11-3. 9 Sept. 1999
<<http://www.sos.state.mu.us/>>.

All of the above examples are for use in a Bibliography or Works Cited list.

Documenting Traditional Print Sources

A book by one author

Davidson, Edward H. Poe: A Critical Study. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1957.

A book with two authors

Berry, Lester V., and Melvin Van den Bark. The American Thesaurus of Slang: With Supplement. New York: Crowell, 1947.

A book that has three authors or more, has gone through several editions, and is one of several volumes in a set

Spiller, Robert E., et al. Literary History of the United States. 4th ed. rev. 2 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1974. Vol. 1.

An introduction, preface, foreword, or afterword to a primary source

Charvat, William. Introduction. The Last of the Mohicans. By James Fenimore Cooper. Boston: Riverside, 1958.

A work from an anthology (our LITERATURE TEXTBOOK, for example!)

Chekov, Anton. "The Lady with the Dog." Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama. Eds. X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. 8th ed. New York: Longman, 2002. 561-573.

A selection that is in a collection of works by several authors

Kendall, Lyle H. "The Vampire Motif in 'The Fall of the House of Usher.'" Twentieth-Century Interpretations of "The Fall of the House of Usher." Ed. Thomas Woodson. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice, 1969. 99-104.

A book in several volumes

Didion, Joan. "Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream." The Harper American Literature. Eds. Donald McQuade, et al. 2 vols. New York: Harper and Row, 1987. 2: 2198-2210.

An article in a journal

Hill, John S. "The Dual Hallucination in 'The Fall of the House of Usher.'" Southwest Review 48 (1963): 396-402.

A Masterplots entry

Morace, Robert A. Rev. of "Song of Myself," by Walt Whitman. Masterplots II: Poetry Series, ed. Frank N. Magill. 6 vols. Pasadena: Salem, 1992. 5: 1959-1960.

To cite a previously published scholarly article in a collection give the complete data for the earlier publication [found at the end of each separate article] and then add *Rpt.* in ["Reprinted in"], the title of the collection, and the new publication facts)

Frye, Northrop. "Literary and Linguistic Scholarship in a Postliterate Age." PMLA 99 (1984): 990-95. Rpt. in Myth and Metaphor: Selected Essays. 1974-88. Ed. Robert D. Denham. Charlottesville: UP of Virginia, 1990. 18-27.

Roberts, Sheila. "A Confined World: A Rereading of Pauline Smith." World Literature Written in English 24 (1984): 232-38. Rpt. in Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism. Ed. Dennis Poupard. Vol. 25. Detroit: Gale, 1988. 399-402.

NOTE: Always double space after colons and after periods that separate divisions of Works Cited entries.

Double space **WITHIN** and **BETWEEN** Works Cited entries.

Always place periods and commas **INSIDE** the closing quotation mark.

Parenthetical Documentation

MLA documentation uses references inserted in parentheses within the text and keyed to a list of works cited at the end of a paper. **A typical reference consists of the author's last name and a page number.**

The colony's religious and political freedom appealed to many idealists in Europe **(Ripley 132)**.

If you use *MORE THAN ONE SOURCE BY THE SAME AUTHOR*, shorten the title of each work to one or two key words and include the appropriate shortened title in the parenthetical reference.

Penn emphasized his religious motivation **(Kelly, William Penn 116)**.

If a *WORK* has been written *BY TWO AUTHORS OR EDITORS*, use the last names of both.

One group of physicists questioned many of the assumptions of relativity **(Harbeck and Johnson 31)**.

If a *WORK* as been written *by MORE THAN THREE* authors, use the last name of the first author listed and the abbreviation et al.

A number of important discoveries were made off the coast of Crete in 1960 **(Dugan et al. 63)**.

For *WORKS WITHOUT A LISTED AUTHOR*, use a [properly punctuated] shortened version of the title in the parenthetical reference.

Television ratings wars have escalated during the past ten years **("Leaving the Cellar" 102)**.

Indicate that the *MATERIAL* is *FROM AN INDIRECT SOURCE* by using the abbreviation qtd. in ("quoted in") as part of the parenthetical reference.

Wagner said that myth and history stood before him "with opposing claims" **(qtd. in Winkler 10)**.

Keep in mind that you punctuate differently with paraphrases and summaries, direct quotations run in with the text, and quotations that are set off from the text before terminal punctuation marks.

Penn's writings epitomize seventeenth-century religious thought **(Degler and Curtis 72)**.

Parenthetical documentation for direct quotations run in with the text should appear after the quotation marks but before the terminal punctuation.

As Ross says, "Penn followed his conscience in all matters" (127).

We must now ask, as Ross does, "Did Penn follow Quaker dictates in his dealings with the Indians" (128)?

According to Williams, "Penn's utopian vision was informed by his Quaker beliefs..." (72).

Parenthetical documentation for quotations that are set off from the text [these are **long quotations** consisting of **more than four typewritten lines** and thus indented 10 spaces from the left margin] should appear two spaces after the final punctuation.

. . . and after all these years the memory of the dulness [sic] the stillness, and lifelessness of that slumberous farm-house still oppresses my spirit as with a sense of the presence of death and mourning. There was nothing to do, nothing to think about; there was no interest in life. (Twain 257)

The citation for an electronic source should contain the author's last name and the number of the paragraph from which the borrowed material came.

The "Tories" strongly opposed the edict against King George III (Simonson par. 7).

USING AND DOCUMENTING LITERARY WORKS

The information in this handout is taken primarily from Judith A. Stanford's Responding to Literature. There is the underlying assumption that there is an accompanying Works Cited page.

CAUTION: *Be careful when quoting poetry and verse plays to reproduce faithfully all line indentations, space between lines, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.*

Quoting from Poems

1. When you quote a **single line from a poem, song, or verse play**, run the line into your text and enclose it in quotation marks. Follow the line with the appropriate parenthetical citation

The narrator urges his father, "Do not go gentle into that good night" (Thomas 1).

NOTE: The parenthetical information comes *after* the quotation marks but *before* the period.

NOTE: If the poem is a short one, line numbers are not required; however, if the poem is longer than twelve lines, you must use line numbers in the parenthetical citation.

2. **When you quote two or three lines of poetry**, you may either run them in with your own words or set them off separately. When you run them in with your own words, enclose the quotation in quotation marks and indicate line breaks with a slash.

Space before and after the slash.

The narrator in “Slipping” comments, “Age comes to my father as a slow / slipping: the leg that weakens will barely support him...”

(Aelshire 1-3).

Note: The three dots at the end of the sentence (called an ellipsis) indicate that the line continues but that those words have been omitted here.

3. **When you quote more than three lines of poetry**, you must set them apart from your own words by beginning a new line and indenting them 10 spaces from the left margin. Do **not** add quotation marks. Double space before, after, and within a block quotation.

Emily Dickinson rarely needed more than a few lines to express her complex thoughts:

"Hope" is the thing with feathers--

That perches in the soul--

And sings the tune without the words--

And never stops--at all— (1-4).

Quoting from Plays

1. When you are quoting from a verse play, follow the guidelines for quoting poems.

2. **When you are quoting from a play that is divided into acts, scenes, and lines**, you should indicate this information in parentheses following the quotation (see the example that follows item 3); otherwise, use line numbers.

3. **When you are quoting no more than three lines**, run them in with your own words.

Hamlet reminds the Queen, “I must be cruel only to be kind” (3.4.185).

4. **When you are quoting more than three lines from a play**, you must set them off from your own words by indenting them from the left margin 10 spaces. In this case, do not enclose the quotation in quotation marks. Place the parenthetical information *after* the period.

Hamlet reminds the Queen::

I will bestow him, and will answer well

The death I gave him. So, again, good night.

I must be cruel only to be kind

Thus bad begins and worse remains behind. (3.4.185)

Citing Longer Works

When citing a **lengthy literary work**, you need to include more than just the author's name and the page number.

In a parenthetical reference to a prose work, begin with the page number, follow it with a semicolon, and then add any additional information that might be necessary:

In Moby Dick Melville refers to a whaling expedition funded by Louis XIV of France (151; ch. 24).

In parenthetical references to long poems, cite both division and line numbers, separating them with a period:

In the ÆNEID Virgil describes the ships as cleaving the "green woods reflected in the calm water"(8.124).

(In this citation the reference is to Book 8, Line 124 of the Æneid.)

In Biblical citations include chapter, verse, and an abbreviated title: (Gen. 5.12). ←(This refers to Genesis, Chapter 5, Verse 12)

When citing an entire work, include the author's name and the work's title in the text of your paper rather than in a parenthetical reference:

Herbert Gans's The Urban Villagers is a study of an Italian-American neighborhood in Boston.

(revised April 2005)