

WORKING WITH QUOTATIONS 2A: CITATION (MLA)

To effectively support an argument, a quotation requires three parts: lead-in, citation, and analysis. This handout covers how to properly cite a source in MLA format, the citation style used in the disciplines that study language, literature, film, and culture. Citation in other disciplines is covered in Working with Quotations handouts 2B (APA), 2C (CSE), and 2D (Chicago). For guidance writing lead-ins and analysis, see Working with Quotations handouts 1 and 3.

Citation allows you to place your ideas in conversation with the work of other scholars. It shows that the sources used to construct your argument have been employed fairly and makes the significance of your argument clear to your audience by demonstrating how it contributes to the existing field of research. You must cite: a) sources you quote, b) sources you summarize, and c) sources that have influenced the formulation of your ideas.

CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE CITATION STYLE

Though nearly every discipline has its own specific citation style, many employ nearly identical formats. As a result, they are typically placed into the following four subject groups:

MLA (Modern Language Association)	language, literature, film, and cultural studies
APA (American Psychological Association)	social sciences
CSE (Council of Scientific Editors)	natural sciences
Chicago (<i>Chicago Manual of Style</i>)	history, art history, and philosophy

The citation style appropriate for your paper depends on the discipline in which you are writing.

THE PARTS OF A CITATION

All citation formats have two parts: 1) a brief indication in the body of the text that a source has been used and 2) a more thorough presentation of the source elsewhere in the paper. To make sure you format your citations properly, it is important to determine the format your discipline uses for each of these parts. The entries below offer guidance for formatting both **in-text citations** and the **list of sources** placed outside the body of your text.

CITING IN MLA STYLE

FORMATTING IN-TEXT CITATIONS

MLA in-text citations use the first word of the source list citation and page number(s) to refer the reader to a corresponding entry in the list of works cited. Typically the source's name appears in the lead-in that precedes the quotation, in which case you only need to include the page number in the parentheses:

As Leslie Fiedler has argued, "Twain is betrayed not by his contempt for culture...but by his pretensions to culture" (272).

If the author's name does not appear in the lead-in, you must include it in the parentheses (no comma).

As one scholar has argued, "Twain is betrayed not by his contempt for culture...but by his pretensions to culture" (Fiedler 272).

If your paper includes more than one work by the author are citing, it is important to indicate which

source you are drawing from. This is done by including the title (in a shortened version, if possible) in either the lead-in (preferable) or the parentheses:

As one scholar has argued, "Twain is betrayed not by his contempt for culture...but by his pretensions to culture" (Fiedler, *Love and Death* 272).

FORMATTING A LIST OF SOURCES

MLA refers to sources as "works cited." Works cited are listed in alphabetical order at the end of your paper and formatted with a half-inch hanging indent (i.e. every line after the first is indented).

Book

General Format:

Author (last name, first name). *Title and Subtitle*. Editor or Translator (if any). City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium.

Examples:

Fiske, John. *Television Culture*. New York: Routledge, 1987. Print.

Kempe, Margery. *The Book of Margery Kempe*. Ed. Barry Windeatt. Harlow: Pearson, 2000. Print.

Bolaño, Roberto. *The Savage Detectives*. Trans. Natasha Wimmer. New York: Picador, 2008. Print.

Journal Article

General Format:

Author of Article. "Article Title and Subtitle." *Journal Title* and Volume Number.Issue Number (Date of Publication): Page Numbers. Medium.

Example:

Malewitz, Raymond. "Regeneration through Misuse: Rugged Consumerism in Contemporary American Culture." *PMLA* 127.3 (May 2012): 512-27. Print.

Book Article

General Format:

Author of Article. "Article Title and Subtitle." *Book Title*. Editor(s) of book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium.

Example:

Huyssen, Andreas. "Mapping the Postmodern." *A Postmodern Reader*. Ed. Joseph Natoli and Linda Hutcheon. Albany: SUNY P, 1993. Print.

Website

General Format:

Author of Work (if known). "Title of Work." *Title of Website*. Sponsor of Website ("N.p." if none), Update Date ("n.d." if none). Medium. Date You Accessed the Source.

Examples:

Robinson, Ken. "Sir Ken Robinson: Do Schools Kill Creativity?" *YouTube*. YouTube, 6 Jan. 2007. Web. 16 May 2012.

"Phineas Meigs's Hat." *Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library*. Connecticut Historical Society, n.d. Web. 12 Aug. 2012.

DVD or Film

General Format:

Title of Film. Director of Film. Lead Performers. Distributor, Release Date. Medium.

Example:

Blade Runner, The Director's Cut. Dir. Ridley Scott. Perf. Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, and Sean Young. Warner Bros., 1997. DVD.