

Huron University College Library Guide

MLA Style for Citing Sources

The MLA style, established by the Modern Language Association, is one of the preferred styles for essays in the humanities, particularly for literature. Brief **parenthetical references** to sources appear in the body of the essay. At the end of the essay a list of **works cited** documents sources in detail. These references give credit to sources used in the essay and allow those reading the paper to find the materials as well.

This guide provides examples to assist you in preparing a **Works Cited** list for various types of sources. Samples of **parenthetical references** using the MLA style are also provided. Detailed explanation and many more examples can be found in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (seventh edition) available in the Huron University College Library at call number REF LB 2369 .G53 2009. Also included are examples of how to correctly incorporate **quotations** of prose or poetry in the body of an essay.

Sample References in a List of Works Cited

Book

Gill, Stephen. *Wordsworth and the Victorians*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1998. Print.

Eagly, Alice H., and Shelly Chaiken. *The Psychology of Attitudes*. Fort Worth, Texas:

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Pub., 1993. Print.

Book with and editor/compiler/translator

Davis, Anita Price, comp. *North Carolina during the Great Depression: A Documentary Portrait of a Decade*. Jefferson: McFarland, 2003. Print.

Kepner, Susan Folop, ed. and trans. *The Lioness in Bloom: Modern Thai Fiction about Women*.

Berkely: U of California P, 1996. Print.

Work in a Book Collection

Johnson, Barbara. "My Monster / My Self." *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. Ed. Harold Bloom.

New York: Chelsea House, 1987. 55-66. Print.

Journal Article

Greymorning, Stephen. "Culture and Language: The Political Realities to Keep Trickster At

Bay." *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies* 20.1 (2000): 181-196. Print.

Material Accessed Through an Online Service

Dabydeen, Cyril. "Places We Come From: Voices of Caribbean Canadian Writers (in English) and Multicultural Contexts." *World Literature Today* 73.2 (Spring 1999).
Web. 20 Oct. 2003.

Matovu, Jacob. "Mass Media as Agencies of Social Change in Uganda." *Journal of Black Studies* 20.3 (Mar. 1990): 342-361. Web. 12 Oct. 2003.

Internet Sources

Article from an online encyclopaedia:

"Surrealism." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopaedia Britannica. 2004. Web. 15 Jan. 2004.

Article from an online newspaper:

Kristan, Eliot. "A Century of Flight." *The Atlantic Online* 17 Dec. 2003. Web. 20 Jan. 2004

Internet site:

Guilford, Chuck. *Paradigm Online Writing Assistant*. 25 Oct. 2003. Web. 15 Jan. 2004

Samples of Parenthetical References In the Essay

Parenthetical references are included in the body of the paper and keyed to the list of Works Cited at the end of the paper. The reader can use the information in the parenthetical reference to refer to the full bibliographic citation provided in the Works Cited list. (see *MLA Handbook* for more examples)

Author's name in reference

"There is a similarity between the novelist's role and that of Wordsworth's Pastor" (Gill 150).

Author's name in text

Gill argues, "[t]here is a similarity between the novelist's role and that of Wordsworth's Pastor" (150).

Title of article (no author available)

Andre Breton was "the major spokesman of the [Surrealist] movement" ("Surrealism").

Place words added to a direct quotation in square brackets.

Samples of Longer Quotations in the Essay

Quotations of more than four lines of prose or three lines of poetry should be set off from the body of your essay by indenting one inch (10 spaces) from the left margin. The quotation ends with a parenthetical reference including the page (for prose) or line numbers (for poetry).

Prose Quotations of More Than Four Lines

In Heart of Darkness, Marlow describes his destination in terms of both darkness and light:

It was the farthest point of navigation and the culminating point of my experience. It seemed somehow to throw a kind of light on everything about me--and into my thoughts. It was sombre enough, too--and pitiful -- not extraordinary in any way--not very clear either. No, not very clear. And yet it seemed to throw a kind of light. (9)

Poetry Quotations of More Than Three Lines

In the opening of Browning's "The Bishop Orders His Tomb" the dying Bishop reveals his pride and immorality as he speaks to his illegitimate sons:

Vanity, saith the preacher, vanity!
Draw round my bed: is Anselm keeping back?
Nephews--sons mine...ah God, I know not! Well-
She, men would have to be your mother once.... (1-4)

Poetry Quotations of Three Lines or Less

He goes on to lament the death of his mistress: "and she is dead beside, / Dead long ago" (6-7).

The slash with a space on each side separates the lines.

