Documentation: Citing Sources in the Text

MLA 2009

\*\*You **MUST** document any quotations or ideas (or facts) that you use that are not your own.\*\*

The citation appears right in the text at **the end** of the quotation. The sentence punctuation (the period) comes after the documentation. If the punctuation is an exclamation mark or a question mark, then it comes before the documentation and the complete sentence ends with a period. This is the only time the punctuation can be doubled.

*Keep in mind: citations must clearly point to the entry for that source on the Works Cited list.*

The citation will be the first word(s) of the Works Cited entry. It is entered in parentheses after the quotation, facts or ideas you have used. Usually a last name and a page number is enough.

eg: “As they passed the different mile-stones, Oliver wondered, more and more, where his companion meant to take him”(Dickens 156).

The reader can then consult the works-cited list under the author’ for the source information.

eg: Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*. New York: Bantam Books, 1990. Print.

*Information required in parenthetical documentation*

Note: References to the text must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited and indicate the page number, if available.

For a **typical works-cited entry** which begins with the name of the author (or editor, translator or narrator) the citation begins with the same name.

eg: (Dickens 156)

If the works-cited list has **more than two authors** with the same last name, include the first initials.

Eg: (E. Bronte 99), (C. Bronte 201)

If **two or three names** begin the entry, give all the last names.

eg: (Rabkin, Greenberg and Olander vii)

**If more than three names** begin the entry, use the first name and use et al.

eg: (Lauter et al. 2601-09)

If the works-cited list has **two works by the same author**, put a comma after the last name, include a shortened version of the title in the citation.

eg: (Dickens, *Oliver* 156), (Dickens, *Christmas* 45)

**If the work is listed by title**, use a shortened version of the title. Make sure to use the first work in the title to make finding the source in the works-cited list easy.

Eg: (“Mandarin”)

If your source uses **paragraph numbers instead of page numbers**, use the paragraph number preceded by *par. or pars.*

eg: (Chan par.41)

When citing **Shakespeare plays**, list the act, scene and line numbers, separated by periods. A general rule is to use Arabic numerals unless your teacher prefers you to use Roman numerals.

eg: (1.5.45-47)

When citing **poetry**, use the line numbers. The first citation should include the word lines or line, all other citations should only use the number(s).

eg: (line 13), (15)

When citing **scripture,** for the first citation, cite the first part of the entry in the works-cited list and then the divisions of the work. All following citations need only have the divisions. For the **bible**,

This is the name of the book, abbreviated, and the chapter and verse numbers.

eg: (*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 1.5-10)

When citing **an indirect source** (a quotation by someone else in what you are quoting), put the abbreviation qtd. In before the source you are citing.

eg: (qtd. in Freehling 168)