



INTEGRATING AND DOCUMENTING SOURCES MLA STYLE

Writers within the humanities, especially English, are required to support claims utilizing sources that are integrated and cited according to Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. In fact, what distinguishes academic writing within these fields from other types of writing is its required use of citations (Fitzpatrick 4). These citations allow other scholars, like a list of procedures in a lab report, to follow the steps that led to your current argument or insight (Fitzpatrick 4). While citations are meant to provide an informational trail for other scholars to follow, they also protect students from charges of plagiarism defined by the Council of Writing Program Administrators as “When a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge material without acknowledging its source”(Council of Writing Program Administrators). By acknowledging sources through in-text citations and by compiling a Works Cited page that follows MLA guidelines, students can avoid the grave academic and professional consequences that accompany deliberate plagiarism (Mendelsohn).

QUOTING & PARAPHRASING

Introducing Quotes and Paraphrases:

When you use the use the language or ideas of another person you should introduce them with a **signal phrase**. A signal phrase usually names the author and offers some context for the information to be given.

QUOTATIONS INTRODUCED WITH A SIGNAL PHRASE

Quotation marks must be used when the **exact words or language** of an author are used.

Examples:

- **Burgess asks a critical question:** “How can we think differently about food labeling?”(51).
- **Resnik acknowledges that his argument relies on** “slippery slope” thinking, but **he insists that** “social and political pressures” regarding food regulation make his concerns valid (31).

PARAPHRASE INTRODUCED WITH A SIGNAL PHRASE

When you paraphrase, you use different language to express the idea(s) of an author, thus no quotation marks are needed.

Example:

To improve public health, advocates such as Bowdoin College philosophy professor Sarah Conly contend that it is the government’s duty to prevent people from making harmful choices, whenever feasible and whenever public benefits outweigh the costs.

DROPPED QUOTATION

Always avoid dropping quotations or paraphrases into a paragraph without warning.

Example:

~~Laws designed to prevent chronic disease by promoting healthier food and beverage consumption also have potential economic benefits. “A 1% reduction in the intake of saturated fat across the population would prevent more than 30,000 cases of coronary heart disease annually and would save more than a billion dollars in health care costs”(Nestle 7).~~

CREATING SIGNAL PHRASES

Remember, repetition bores a reader, so make sure you vary your signal phrases. The following signal phrase models will help you avoid repetition:

- **According to researchers** Neergaard and Agiesta, “. . .”
- As journalist Michael Pollan **has noted**. . .
- The United States Department of Health and Human Services **reports**, “. . . ”
- “. . .”, **writes** Bowdoin College philosophy professor Sarah Conly.
- “. . .”, health policy experts Mello et al. contend.
- Bioethicist David Resnik offers a persuasive argument: “. . . ”

You may also use the following verbs to make your own signal phrases:

acknowledges	contends	insists
adds	declares	notes
admits	denies	observes
agrees	describes	points out

argues	disputes	refutes
asserts	emphasizes	rejects
believes	endorses	reports
claims	grants	responds
compares	illustrates	suggests
confirms	implies	writes

Note: MLA style uses the present tense or present perfect tense to introduce quotations and paraphrases unless the time when the source was written is specified.

Other Notes about Quotations

BRACKETS

Brackets indicate editorial changes or additions within quotations. Words may be added to a quotation in order to make it fit grammatically into your sentence or to make the meaning clear to your reader. When you add words, you enclose them within brackets.

Example:

Though Iago bids his wife to “hold **[her]** peace,” Emilia declares, “I will speak as liberal **[ly]** as the north **[wind]**” (5. 2. 218-19).

ELLIPSIS MARK

Your quotes should be as succinct as possible. When you omit unnecessary words from a quotation, you use ellipsis points. An **ellipsis mark** consists of three spaced periods. It is not necessary to use an ellipsis mark if you are omitting words at the beginning or end of a quotation. If you use an ellipsis mark at the end of a sentence, you must add a fourth period, the normal period at the end of a sentence. **Make sure that the words you eliminate do not change the meaning of the sentence(s).**

Example:

I pledge allegiance to the . . . United States of America.

POETRY

When you quote poetry, it is extremely important to leave the lines as is. Line breaks and capitalization often contribute to the meaning of a poem. A “/” mark with a letter space on each side indicates a line break.

Example:

William Blake questions the nature of God in his poem “The Tiger” when he writes, “What immortal hand or eye / Could frame thy fearful symmetry?”(lines 3-4).

IN-TEXT CITATION

When you paraphrase or quote from another work within the text of your paper, you must briefly document the source within the text itself. This is called an **in-text citation**. The **most important thing** to remember **about in-text citation** is that **whatever is used in the parenthetical citation** should be **the first thing listed** in the **source's Works Cited page entry**.

Basic Format

QUOTATIONS

The author's name should be introduced in the signal phrase. Include quote next with the words directly taken from the text bracketed with quotation marks. The page number where the information is found is placed at the end of the sentence within parentheses followed by a period.

Example:

According to **Lorine Goodwin**, a food historian, nineteenth-century reformers who sought to purify the food supply were called "fanatics" and "radicals" by critics who argued that consumers should be free to buy and eat what they want **(77)**.

PARAPHRASES

With a Signal Phrase

The author's name should be introduced in the signal phrase. Include paraphrase next followed by the page number where the information is found placed at the end of the sentence within parentheses.

Example:

In his studies of gifted children, **Terman** describes a pattern of accelerated language acquisition **(279)**.

Without a Signal Phrase

The following information should be in parentheses at the end of your sentence: (authors' last name page number).

Example:

According to a nationwide poll, 75% of Americans are opposed to laws that restrict or put limitations on access to unhealthy foods **(Neergaard and Agiesta 5)**.

FAQS: WHAT DO I DO WITH?

Works With More Than One Author

FOR WORKS WITH THREE or MORE AUTHORS

Use the first author's last name followed by "et al." in the signal phrase and parenthetical citation.

Example:

Only after results were reviewed by an independent panel did the researchers publish their findings (**Blaine et al. 35**).

Multiple Citations of the Same Work in One Paragraph

If you are writing about a single work, mention the author's name only at the beginning of the paper. Thereafter, you may just include parenthetical citations with page numbers. .

Example:

In Susan **Glaspell**'s short story "A Jury of Her Peers," two women accompany their husbands and a county attorney to an isolated house where a farmer named John Wright has been choked to death. The chief suspect is Wright's wife, Minnie, who is in jail awaiting trial. The sheriff's wife, Mrs. Peters, has come along to gather some items for Minnie, and Mrs. Hale has joined her. Initially, Mrs. Hale sympathizes with Minnie and objects to the male investigators "snoopin' round and criticizing" her kitchen (**249**). Mrs. Peters shows respect for the law, saying that the men are doing "no more than their duty" (**249**).

Long Quotations = More than 4 Typed Lines

Introduce the quote with a signal phrase including the author's name followed by a colon. On the next line, insert the quotation after indenting 5 spaces. No quotation marks are needed as the indentation signals the lines are a quote. End the quote with a period followed by the page number(s) where the quote was taken from enclosed in parentheses.

Example

In response to critics who claim that laws aimed at stopping us from eating whatever we want are an assault on our freedom of choice, **Only offers a persuasive**

counterargument:

[L]aws aren't designed for each one of us individually. Some of us can drive safely at 90 miles per hour, but we're bound by the same laws as people who can't, because individual speeding laws aren't practical. Giving up a little liberty is something we agree to when we agree to live in a democratic society that is governed by laws.

(A23)

Indirect Sources

Indirect sources are sources quoted within another source. The author of the original source should be named in the signal phrase. The parenthetical citation after the quotation must begin with the abbreviation "qtd. in" followed by the secondary source's: Author's last name page #.

Example

Public health researcher **Dan Beauchamp** has said that "public health practices are 'communal in nature and concerned with the well-being of the community as a whole and not just the well-being of any particular person'" **(qtd. in Gostin and Gostin 217)**.

Websites

Cite websites as you would other sources with author's last name and page number. Yet, if the website has:

NO PAGE NUMBERS

For sites with numbered paragraphs, sections or divisions use these numbers along with the abbreviations: "par.", "sec.", "ch.", and "pt."

Example:**(Hawthorne ch.4)***NO AUTHOR*

Use the source's title in your signal phrase or use the first one to two words in the title in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

Example:

As a result, kids see about four thousand ads per year encouraging them to eat unhealthy food and drinks ("**Facts**").

ORGANIZATION AS AUTHOR

Use the full name of the organization in your signal phrase, but in a parenthetical citation, abbreviate common words like "Association" to "Assn."

Examples

- The **American Diabetes Association** estimates that the cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States in 2012 was \$245 billion.
- The cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States in 2012 was \$245 billion (**Amer. Diabetes Assn.**).

Plays

Include the act, scene and line numbers in the parenthetical citation separated by spaced periods. Again, the period marking the end of the sentence is placed at the end of the parentheses. The name of the author or the speaker should be included in your signal phrase.

Example:

Juliet asserts her right to the truth when she declares, "O, swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon / That monthly changes in her orb. / Lest that thy love prove likewise variable" **(2. 2. 114-116)**.

Poems

Specify the part (if there are numbered parts) and line numbers in parentheses. The part number is separated from the line numbers by a period. The line numbers are separated by a dash. The author or speaker should be named in the signal phrase.

Example:

Gerard Manley Hopkins's belief that God is still with us in this mechanized world is affirmed with his words, "the Holy Ghost over the bent / World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings" **(lines 13-14)**.

**Most examples and signal phrase information taken from (Hacker and Sommers 114-133)

WORKS CITED PAGE:

The **key identifying information** for a **specific source** that appears in an **in-text citation** in your paper **must also appear** on the **Works Cited page** with the same information found in the in-text citation listed first. Readers use the in-text citation information to locate the information used to find the source on your Works Cited page.

Your Works Cited page should be on a **separate page**, with each source listed in alphabetical order by author's last name with a hanging indent like this:

DeSouza 11

Works Cited

Adams, Luther J. "Great Migration, Causes Of." *Encyclopedia of the Great Black Migration*, edited by Steven A. Reich, vol. 1, Greenwood Press, 2006, pp. 504-06.

Grossman, James R. *Land of Hope: Chicago, Black Southerners, and the Great Migration*. U of Chicago P, 1989.

Lawrence, Jacob. Interview. *Jacob Lawrence: The Glory of Expression*, directed by David Irving, narrated by Ossie Davis, L & S Video, 1992.

---. "Jacob Lawrence Talks about Color." *Jacob Lawrence: Over the Line*, Flash ed., Phillips Collection, 2001, www.phillipscollection.org/sites/default/files/interactive/jacob-lawrence-over-the-line/flash.html.

Lorensen, Jutta. "Between Image and Word, Color and Time: Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series*." *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2006, pp. 571-86. *EbscoHost*, connection.ebscohost.com/c/literary-criticism/24093790/between-image-word-color-time-jacob-lawrences-migration-series.

Steele, Elizabeth. "The Materials and Techniques of Jacob Lawrence." *Over the Line: The Art and Life of Jacob Lawrence*, edited by Peter T. Nesbett and Michelle DuBois, U of Washington P, 2000, pp. 247-65.

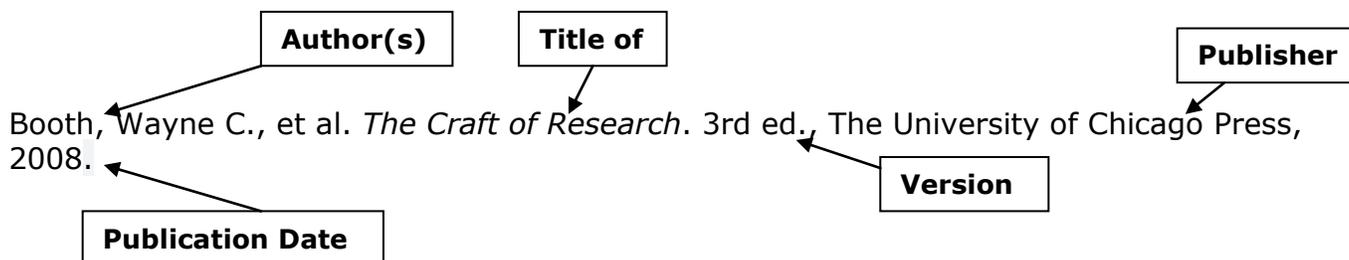
(De Souza)

MLA 7 vs. MLA 8

The new MLA 8 guidelines, known as MLA 8, were formed in response to charges that the former MLA 7 guidelines were overly complex and difficult to follow, MLA 8 citation entries for all types of sources now follow a format that contains the same “core elements” in this order with the appropriate punctuation following:

- 1) **Author(s).**
- 2) **Title of Source.**
- 3) **Title of container,** (Where the source is housed. A poem might be housed in an anthology or a web page housed within a website)
- 4) **Other contributor(s),** (Editor, translator, director, illustrator, introduction author, performer)
- 5) **Version,** (Edition)
- 6) **Numbers,**(Volumes, issues, episodes or seasons)
- 7) **Publisher,**
- 8) **Publication date,**
- 9) **Location.** (URL, DOI, Disc #)

(*MLA Handbook* 20-53)

Example Entry:**Key Differences:**

- 1) **URLs** are now **included**, but the “http://” and “https://” are omitted.
- 2) The **abbreviations vol. and no.** are used in **magazine and journal article citations.**
- 3) The **name of the publisher** is **not** included for **periodicals and websites.**
- 4) The **city of publication** is **omitted.**

(“A Complete Guide to MLA 8”)

General Guidelines

Each entry should include for:

Books

ONE AUTHOR

Author's Last name, First name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example:

Bowker, Gordon. *James Joyce: A New Biography*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012.

TWO AUTHORS

First Author's Last name, First name and Second Author's First name Last name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example:

Goutevitch, Phillip, and Errol Morris. *Standard Operating Procedure*. Penguin Books, 2008.

THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

First Author's Last name, First name, et al. for all other authors. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example:

Zumeta, William, et al. *Financing American Higher Education in the Era of Globalization*. Harvard Education Press, 2012.

Selections from Anthologies

Author of Selection's Last name, First name. "Title of Selection." *Title of Anthology*, edited by Names of Editors, Publisher, Year of publication, Pages where selection appears.

Example

Gandhi, Mahatma. "The Theory of Passive Resistance." *Cultural Conversations*, edited by Stephen Dilks, Regina Hansen, Matthew Parfitt, Bedford/St. Martins, 2001, pp. 321-329.

Journal Articles*IN PRINT*

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Journal Title*, Volume, Issue, Date of publication, Pages.

Example

Matchie, Thomas. "Law versus Love in *The Round House*." *Midwest Quarterly*, vol. 56, no. 4, Summer 2015, pp. 353-64.

FROM A DATABASE

Author(s) Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Journal Title*, Volume, Issue, Date of publication, Pages. Database Title, doi:.

Example:

Maier, Jessica. "A 'True Likeness': The Renaissance City Portrait." *Renaissance Quarterly*, vol. 65, no. 3, Fall 2012, pp. 711-52. *JSTOR*, doi: 10.1086/668300.

FROM A WEBSITE

Author's Last name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Journal Title*, Volume, Issue, Date of Publication, Pages, URL.

Example:

Caceres, Sigfrido Burgoes. "Towards Concert in Africa: Seeking Progress and Power through Cohesion and Unity." *African Studies Quarterly*, vol. 12, no. 4, Fall 2011, pp. 59-73, asq.africa.ufl.edu/files/Caceres-Vol12Is4.pdf.

Websites

WEBSITE WITH AUTHOR OR EDITOR

Author's Last name, First name. *Website Title*. Publisher/Sponsor, Date, URL.

Example:

Railton, Stephen. *Mark Twain in His Times*. Stephen Railton/U of Virginia Library, 2012, twain.lib.virginia.edu/.

AUTHOR = ORGANIZATION

Begin your entry with the organization's name instead of the author's.

Example:

Transparency International. *Transparency International: The Global Coalition against Corruption*, 2015, www.transparency.org/.

NO AUTHOR

Begin your entry with website title.

Example:

The Newton Project. U of Sussex, 2016, www.newtonproject.sussec.ac.uk/prism.php?id=1.

NO TITLE

Include all other entry elements except the title.

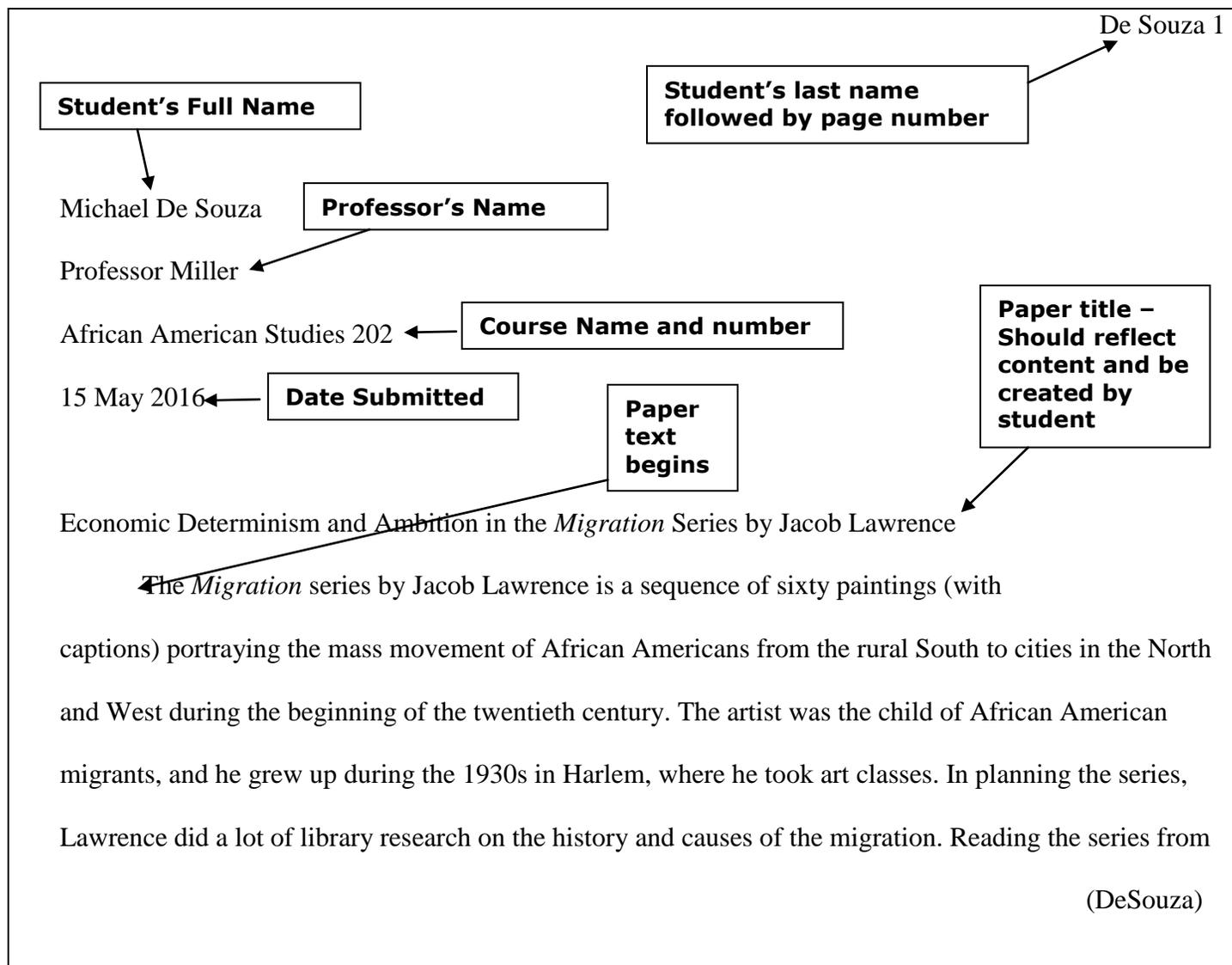
Example:

Bae, Rebecca. Home page. Iowa State U, 2015, www.engl.iastate.edu/rebecca-bae-directory-page/.

*General Guidelines examples taken from (Hacker and Sommers 137-157).

HEADING VS. TITLE PAGE

MLA does not require a title page, but instead provides formatting guidelines for a heading on the first page as follows:



HELPFUL WEB RESOURCES:

- EasyBib will automatically format your citations and can be exported to a Word document: <http://www.easybib.com/>
- Purdue OWL's MLA Guide
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- *The MLA Style Center: Writing Resources from the Modern Language Association*
<https://style.mla.org/>
- Brigham Young University Writing Center's
 - MLA Style Formatting
<http://writingcenterdev.byu.edu/files/2016/07/MLA-Style-Formatting.pdf>
 - MLA Style Citations
<http://writingcenterdev.byu.edu/files/2016/07/MLA-Style-Citations.pdf>

Works Cited

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- Fitzpatrick, Kathleen. "The Future of Academic Style: Why Citations Still Matter in the Age of Google." *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 29 Mar. 2016, lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-future-of-academic-style-why-citations-still-matter-in-the-age-of-google/.
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- Mendelsohn, Susan E. "Lesson_The Rhetoric of Citation Styles.docx." *Google Drive*, Google, drive.google.com/file/d/0B8DWHWaRwE1sSDZsbjVkJMDJYYTA/view. Accessed 5 July 2017.
- MLA Handbook*. 8th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.
- Hopkins, Gerard Manley. "God's Grandeur" *Perrine's Literature Structure, Sound and Sense*, edited by Thomas R. Arp and Greg Johnson, Heinle, 2001, p.231.

Russell, Tony, et al. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." *Purdue Online Writing Lab*,
The Writing Lab & The OWL at Purdue and Purdue University, 27 Jan. 2017,
owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/.

Shakespeare, William. *Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*. Pocket Books, 1992.