



## MLA CITATION

This section contains information about how to properly cite quotations and researched information in literary analysis or research papers.

### Quotations:

Quote only the most important material from the text. When you quote excessively, the reader might “conclude that you are neither an original thinker nor a skillful writer” (Gibaldi 109).

When you quote, the material should be presented exactly as it is in the original source. Unless brackets have been used to replace a word(s), “change must not be made in spelling, capitalization, or interior punctuation of the source” (Gibaldi 109).

You must make sure that any fragmented quotations become part of a complete sentence.

### [Brackets]

*Original Text:* He lay very awkwardly, with his head thrown far back, making his vermilion neck appear unusually long and slim.

If we choose to use this quotation, it would not be clear to our reader who “He” is; therefore, we might choose to replace “He” with the name of the character, “Doodle.” In doing so, the text would appear as follows:

*Quotation:* “[Doodle] lay very awkwardly, with his head thrown far back, making his vermilion neck appear unusually long and slim” (Hurst 192).

By using brackets, we let our reader know that the word inserted is not the original word in the text, but the integrity of the sentence is still intact since the word we inserted means the same as the original.

### Ellipsis...

We as writers must be selective in choosing our quotations; therefore, we need to eliminate portions of the text that do not support the idea we want to convey. One way to do this is to use the ellipsis (...)—three periods with a space before each and a space after the last. For example,

*Original:* “A collection of men walked from a platform and surrounded the heap, igniting it, much to the approval of everyone. Voices climbed over shoulders and the smell of pure German sweat struggled at first, then poured out. It rounded corner after corner, till they were all swimming in it. The words, the sweat. And smiling. Let’s not forget the smiling” (Zusak 111).

*Quotation:* “A collection of men walked from a platform and surrounded the heap, igniting it, much to the approval of everyone...The words, the sweat. And smiling. Let’s not forget the smiling” (Zusak 111).

In the above example, we chose only the most meaningful portion of the original quotation.

### Frequently Asked Questions (or the ones we should be asking):

#### **Q. How do we cite a quotation that ends with a period?**

*“But I can see. I can see everything. I can see things that Mom and Dad can’t. Or won’t (Bloor 4).*

**A.** When a quotation ends in a period, the quotation marks stay with the quotation, and the period goes after the parenthetical citation. Inside the parentheses, note the page number where the quotation can be found. The author’s name should be included only if the author is unclear.

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#### **Q. How do we cite a quotation that ends with a question mark or an exclamation point?**

*“Why can’t they practice in the morning, when it doesn’t rain? (Bloor 29-30).*

*“I nodded with real conviction now. I said, ‘Yes! Yes!’” (Bloor 260-261).*

**A.** When a quotation ends with either a question mark or an exclamation point, keep these marks of punctuation with the quotation (as they are part of the quotation), and place a period after the parenthetical citation.

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#### **Q. How do we cite a quotation when the last word of the quotation we want to include is not the last word of the sentence?**

*“Just about everyone I knew could see me standing there...” (Bloor 185).*

*“I wanted to tell the book thief many things, about beauty and brutality. But what could I tell her about those things that she didn’t already know? I wanted to explain that I am constantly overestimating and underestimating the human race... (Zusak 550)*

**A.** When we want to quote a passage, but we do not want the entire sentence, specifically the end of the sentence, we use the ellipsis. This lets the reader know that the original sentence continues.

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**Q. How do we cite a quotation when the first word of the quotation we want to include is not the first word in the sentence?**

“...is there cowardice in the acknowledgement of fear? Is there cowardice in being glad that you lived?” (Zusak 107)

“...the words started to mean not just something, but everything.” (Zusak 30)

**A.** When we want to quote a passage, but we do not want the entire sentence, specifically the beginning of the sentence, we use the ellipsis. This lets the reader know that the original sentence contains additional material at the beginning.

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**Q. How do we quote dialogue?**

*“I had the feeling mom knew what I was talking about, but all she would say is, ‘Clouds don’t get mad, Paul.’”* (Bloor 30).

*“Antoine said quietly, ‘It’s time to start telling the truth, little brother.’”* (Bloor 260)

**A.** Dialogue is identified in the text by enclosing it in double quotation marks. If we choose to use dialogue within a quotation, we must place single quotation marks around the dialogue and double quotation marks around the quotation.

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**Q: How do I embed a citation from a book?**

**A:** After your quote or reference, place the author’s last name and page number in parenthesis.

**Example:** (Zusak 12)

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**Q: I am citing information from a website that lists an author but does not list page numbers. How do I write my embedded citation?**

**A:** For a website that lists an author but has no page numbers, you would write the author’s last name only in parenthesis, following the quote.

**Example:** (Rodriguez)

**Q: I am using information from a website that does not list an author and does not have page numbers. How do I write my embedded citation?**

**A:** For resources that do not list an author or page number, simply cite a condensed version of the website title, article title, etc. inside of parenthesis.

Note – if you are using multiple resources with similar titles, make sure that each citation is different and that it clearly refers to the correct item on your Works Cited page.

**Example:** ("Emancipation Proclamation")  
("Lincoln Emancipation")

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**Q: How do I cite a reference from an organization or corporate publication that doesn't list an author?**

**A:** To cite a corporate or organizational reference, you should write an abbreviated form of the name of the organization followed by the page number, if available.

**Example:** (Natl. Research Council 15)  
(US Dept. of State)

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**Q: I am using an E-Book as a resource. How do I write my embedded citation?**

**A:** E-books can be cited in the same way that regular books are cited: author's last name followed by the page number, all in parenthesis.

**Example:** (Moore 6)

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**Q: I am citing a source that has multiple authors. How do I write my embedded citation?**

**A1:** If your resource has two authors, you should write both last names of the authors followed by the page number.

**Example:** (Eggin and Slade 15)

On the works cited page, your citation would look like this:

Eggin, Suzanne and Diana Slade. *Analysing Casual Conversation*. London: Cassell, 1997

**A2:** If your resource has more than two authors, you should write the name of the first author followed by et al. ("and others") in your works cited. For your embedded citation, use only the last name of the first author given.

**Q: Two of my resources are by authors with the same last names! How do I differentiate between the two in my embedded citations?**

A: The best way to cite two authors with the same last names is to include their first initial with their last name, followed by the page number (if available).

**Example:** (R. Miller 51)  
(A. Miller 16)

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**Q: Two of my resources have the same author but different titles. How should I cite them?**

A: If you have two articles by the same author, it is best to cite the author's last name and the title of the work (or part of the title) plus the page number if available.

**Example:** (Gettleman, *Armed*)  
(Gettleman, *Children*)

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**Q: Three of my resources have the same title but are different sources. How should I cite them?**

A: If you have more than one resource with the same title, find a publication fact in the works-cited entry which distinguishes it from the others, e.g. publication date.

Example: ("Global Warming," 2009)  
("Global Warming," 2002)

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**Q: How to I cite more than one source in a single parenthetical reference?**

A: When citing two or more works in a single parenthetical reference, cite each work as you normally would in a reference and use semicolons to separate the citations.

Example: (Farley 43; Fradin 68)

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**Q: I would like to include an indirect source in my paper, how should I cite it?**

A: When citing an indirect source (a source cited in another source), use the phrase "qtd. in" to indicate the source you actually cited.

## South Brunswick School District's Writing Guide, Grades 6-12

Example: Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

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### Works Cited

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.

### MLA Tools and Resources

There are countless resources available to you when you are using MLA, including your school librarian, teachers, and web resources. Below are a few sites you can use when formatting your MLA style papers.

Citation tool	Notable Features	To Note
<a href="http://www.citationmachine.net">Son of Citation Machine</a> www.citationmachine.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ISBN lookup</li><li>• Copy/paste citations into your document</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Click on the red "More" button in the left menu bar for a complete list of formats.</li><li>• For citing database articles, use the "Works from a subscription service" link.</li></ul>
<a href="http://easybib.com">Easy Bib</a> http://easybib.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ISBN and URL lookup (Autocite)</li><li>• Copy/paste, export citations to Word, or e-mail your citation list</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure you select <b>MLA 7</b> to use the latest version of MLA style!</li></ul>
<a href="http://www.bibme.org/">BibMe</a> http://www.bibme.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ISBN and URL lookup (Autofill mode)</li><li>• Copy/paste, save, or download citations to Word</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Click on the "Other" tab to select additional formats.</li><li>• Roll over underlined text for Formatting tips.</li></ul>
<a href="http://www.noodletools.com">NoodleBib</a> www.noodletools.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Color-coded citation elements</li><li>• Copy/paste, save your citation as a Word doc, or e-mail your list</li><li>• "Check for errors" feature highlights formatting errors</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You must create a free account in order to use NoodleBib</li></ul>

Created by Rita Nannini, Crossroads South Library Media Specialist

## 2010 Short MLA FORMAT

- List all citations in alphabetical order by the first letter. First line should be flush left, second line is indented.
- List the format: Print, Web, CD, etc.
- Web addresses are not needed unless your teacher instructs you to use them.
- If the date of publication is missing, write n.d. If there is no publisher, write N.p.

### **BOOK:**

Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of publication: Publisher's name, Copyright year. Format.

#### **Example:**

Coleman, David. *Emotional Intelligence*. New York: Bantam, 1995. Print.

### **ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE:**

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." *Name of Encyclopedia*. Edition. Copyright year. Format.

#### **Example:**

Fairchild, Mark D. "Color." *World Book Encyclopedia*. 2009 ed. Print.

#### **Example without author:**

"Baseball." *Compton's by Britannica*. 2007 ed. Print.

### **ARTICLE IN AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE:**

Author (if given). "Title of Article." *Title of Encyclopedia, Book, Magazine or Newspaper*. Day Mo. Year of publication: Section or Pages in print version. *Name of Database*. Format. Day Mo. Year of access.

**Ex: ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA** ex: World Book Online, Grolier Online  
Petrakis, Peter L. "Zygote." *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*. 2009. *Grolier Online*. Web. 19 Nov. 2009.

**Ex: ONLINE DATABASE** ex: Ebsco  
Yang, Jia Lynn, Nina Easton, and Maha Atal "Obama & GOOGLE (a love story)." *Fortune* 160.9 (2009): 104-112. *Academic Search Premier*. EBSCO. Web. 19 Nov. 2009.

### **ARTICLE ON A WEB SITE:**

Author (if given). "Title of the article/work." (if given). *Title of web site*. Version or edition used. Name of institution/organization affiliated with site, Day Mo. Year the work was created. Format. Day Mo. Year of access.

#### **Example:**

Liu, Alan, ed. "Home page." *Voice of the Shuttle*. Dept. of English, U of California, Santa Barbara, n.d. Web. 15 May 2008.