



MLA DOCUMENTATION STYLE

University College of the Fraser Valley

Online: www.ucfv.ca/writing_centre

(This handout is based on information in the *Modern Language Association Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Sixth Edition*.)

MLA style documentation is used widely to document sources of research. This handout will show you how to cite your sources of research both **in the text**, as you summarize, paraphrase, or quote directly material from sources, and **at the end of your document** when you create a list of sources that you have cited within your paper. Please note that this handout may not answer all of your questions regarding documenting and citation. More detailed information can be found in the sixth edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

CITING PRINT and ELECTRONIC SOURCE MATERIAL in the TEXT

Use a parenthetical citation (in-text citation) to acknowledge a quotation (including an indented one), summary, paraphrase, or the source of an idea or fact. A citation is incorporated within the text and enables the reader to locate the source of the information in the alphabetical Works Cited list at the end of the paper.

Placement and Punctuation

The **parenthetical citation** is placed in the text as near as possible to the information being cited, usually – but not always – at the end of a sentence.

Format

Generally, the format includes

1. **Last name(s) of author(s)**, followed by
2. **Page or pages cited**, if a direct quotation or specific part of a source is used.
Note: You may omit page numbers when citing complete works, articles in works arranged alphabetically, unpaginated sources, or a one-page work.

The citation forms part of the sentence containing the quotation or statement being documented; therefore, closing punctuation (e.g., a period) *follows* a citation placed at the end of a sentence.

EXAMPLE: Musgrave's "wit" is as wet as the BC winter (Ostrowsky 35).

If the author's name has been included in the text, only add the page number(s) in parentheses:

EXAMPLES: On the other hand, Ostrowsky notes that Sinclair Ross's metaphors sometimes rise above the dirt from which they are formed (47).

Conversely, Ostrowsky argues that Wilson's later work reveals a "fine delineation of nature's spiritual fecundity" (15).

Place the citation within your sentence to clarify its relationship to the part of the sentence it documents:

EXAMPLE: Though King Lear embraces "the turgid thrust of life's last blood" (Turner 199), his actions cannot be seen as a "How To" guide for reinvigorating the average geriatric.

When the reference documents a block quotation that is set off from the text, place it at the *end* of the passage but *after* the final period.

EXAMPLE: Hummingway notes that music theory has, of late, been totally eclipsed by energy and movements that take their meaning from practice:

Rap, as well as other forms of "street" music, design themselves at the moment of tension between emotion, people, and places. In the past, new music grew out of a strong grounding in theory and was, thus, the province of the educated and wealthy; increasingly, this is no longer the case as urban youth become the makers of new forms of musical expression. Their practice of making music is not typically informed by theory, but by practice itself. (253)

CITING IN THE TEXT

Citing an Entire Work:

When you cite an entire work rather than a part of a work, help your reader by citing the author's name in the text rather than in a parenthetical reference. Note how the *first* example answers the question of authorship in a more accessible way than the second example:

EXAMPLES: Marcy documents the trend toward transnationalization of corporations.

The trend toward transnationalization of corporations is well documented (Marcy).

Citing Part of an Article or Book:

If you quote, paraphrase, or otherwise use a specific passage in a book or article, give the relevant page number or numbers:

EXAMPLE: Singh argues in *Ways of Reading Western Art* that interpretation of classical Western painters would benefit the on-going discussion about the work of post-modern artists (99-112).

References to One Author

Cite the author's last name and page number(s).

EXAMPLE: According to Kelly, "the policies are evaluated primarily in terms of their ability to support policy objectives" (25).

References to More Than One Author

If a source has two or three authors, cite each last name in the order listed on the source's title page, and page number(s).

EXAMPLE: Social comparison theory is the exception, in that it suggests inspiration is the result of both a "trigger object" and a "target object" (Thrash and Elliot 36).

If a source has more than three authors, you have two options: 1) cite the first author's last name followed by *et al.* and the page number(s); or 2) cite all authors' last names. The option you choose should correspond with the bibliographic entry in your Works Cited.

EXAMPLES: Context is an important consideration in writing, as it can significantly impact a document's "tone and content" (Huseman et al. 63).

Understanding the role context plays in business communications will help the writer produce documents that "fit into the overall structure and culture of [his or her] organization" (Huseman, Stockmayer, Lahiff, and Penrose 63).

References to Corporate Authors (i.e., groups such as committees or government agencies whose individual members are not identified on the title page)

Including lengthy corporate names in the text rather than in parentheses helps your reader clearly identify the author(s), and helps you avoid extensive parenthetical citations.

EXAMPLE: According to the BC Ministry of Education's 2002/03 Annual Service Plan Report, enrolment in French Immersion courses has increased by seven percent over the past decade (4).

If you do decide to add the author's name in parentheses however, common abbreviations (see MLA Handbook for info) can be used to condense the citation, and any preceding *A*, *An* or *The* can be omitted:

EXAMPLE: Enrolment in provincial French Immersion courses has increased by seven percent over the past decade (BC Ministry of Educ. 4).

References to Sources with No Author

Cite the title and, if applicable, page number(s). If the title is long, include a shortened version beginning with the word it is alphabetized by in the Works Cited list (omit any *A*, *An*, or *The* that precedes the title). Remember that works published independently are underlined or italicized (i.e., books, plays, periodicals, etc.) while unpublished works, and works that are part of larger publications, are enclosed in quotation marks (e.g., chapters, lectures, poems, etc.).

EXAMPLE: Various twentieth century linguists began to regard language as a “self-contained relational structure” (“Structuralism”).

Citing Two or More Works by the Same Author(s)

Including the full title (if brief) or an abbreviated version will help your reader distinguish between sources. The title can be included in the parenthetical reference (including a comma between the author’s name and the title), in the text itself, or in a combination of text and parenthetical reference.

EXAMPLES: For Taylor, a “moral ideal” refers to a “picture of what a better or higher mode of life would be” (*Malaise* 16).

“Due recognition is not just a courtesy we owe people. It is a vital human need” (Taylor, *Multiculturalism* 26).

Citing Two or More Works in the Same Parenthetical Reference

Follow the examples listed above, using a semi-colon to distinguish between each citation.

EXAMPLE: (Brown 34; Jauss, *History of Art* 419)

Citing a Source within a Source (Indirect Sources)

The abbreviation *qtd. in* (“quoted in”) will indicate that the quote or paraphrase you have included is not from its original source, but from an “indirect” source (e.g., a published account of someone’s spoken remarks). In this case, your Works Cited list should reflect the publication data from the indirect source, so that your reader can consult the same text(s) you did.

EXAMPLE: Falconer goes on to suggest that Macdonald’s “didacticism...[was] suicidal to his art” (qtd. in Hein 184).

CITING ELECTRONIC MATERIAL IN THE TEXT

To cite a specific part of a source, indicate the page number, figure, table at the appropriate point in the text:

(Cheek and Buss 332)

For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, use the paragraph number, if available, preceded by the paragraph symbol or the abbreviation par. If no paragraph number nor page number are visible, cite the author's last name, or if there is no author name, use the title.

(Myers ¶ 5)
(Butler par. 1)

THE WORKS CITED LIST

- Your final list of sources, called Works Cited, is an ALPHABETICAL list of EVERY source referred to or quoted in your paper.
- DO NOT include sources that you consulted, if you have not quoted from or referred to them in your paper. NOTE: Authorities do not agree on this, and some permit you to include sources that you have found helpful, even if you have not directly quoted from or referred to them in your paper. Check with your instructor.
- Your Works Cited list is on a separate page at the end of your paper. The page is numbered sequentially with the rest of your paper, and the title Works Cited is centred at the top of your page.
- Entries are listed in ALPHABETICAL order by author. When no author is given, list the work alphabetically by title, disregarding *A*, *An*, or *The*.
- For each entry, indent the second and subsequent lines FIVE spaces.
- Individual entries should be double spaced, with a double space between entries as well.
- When listing two or more publications by the same author, replace the author's name with a continuous line for the second and subsequent entries.

BOOKS

One Author

Laurence, Margaret. *The Stone Angel*. New York: Knopf, 1964.

Two Authors

M'gonigle, Michael, and Wendy Wickwire. *Stein, the Way of the River*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 1988.

Three Authors

MacNair, Peter L., Alan L. Hoover, and Kevin Neary. *The Legacy: Tradition and Innovation in Northwest Coast Indian Art*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1984.

Four or More Authors

Granatstein, J.L., et al. *Twentieth Century Canada*. Toronto: McGraw, 1983.

Group or Corporate Author

Western Canada Wilderness Committee. *Carmanah: Artistic Visions of an Ancient Rainforest*. Vancouver: The Committee, 1989.

No Author

The National Atlas of Canada. 5th ed. Ottawa: Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, 1985.

Author and Editor

Richler, Mordecai. *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. Ed. Malcolm Ross. Toronto: McClelland, 1969.

Translation

Tremblay, Michel. *The Fat Woman Next Door is Pregnant*. Trans. Sheila Fischman. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 1981.

Several Volumes

Stacey, C.P. *Canada and the Age of Conflict: A History of Canadian External Politics*. Vol. 1. Toronto: Macmillan, 1977-1981. 2 vols.

Play, Story, or Essay from a Collection

Pollock, Sharon. "Whiskey Six Cadenza." *NeWest Plays by Women*. Eds. Diane Bessai and Don Kerr. Edmonton: NeWest Press, 1987. 137-247.

Chapter in a Book

Innis, Harold. "Cod." Chap. in *The Cod Fisheries: The History of an International Economy*. Rev. ed. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1954.

Signed Article in a Reference Book

Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. Ed. Warren T. Reich. Rev. ed. 5 vols. New York: Macmillan-Simon, 1995.

Unsigned Article in a Reference Book (Encyclopedia)

"Salishan Indians." *The Oxford Companion to Canadian History and Literature*. Toronto: Oxford, 1967.

Unsigned Article in a Reference Book (Dictionary)

"Noon." Def. 4b. *The Oxford English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. 1989.

Government Publication

Canada. Indian and Northern Affairs. *Outstanding Business: A Native Claims Policy*. Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1982.

JOURNAL, MAGAZINE or NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Scholarly Journal Article

Kelly, Shannon. "Controlling Language and the Language of Control in Government Discourse." *Technostyle* 16.2 (2000): 10-28.

Newspaper Article Signed

Hutchinson, Allan. "A Case of Private Rights and Public Wrongs." *Globe and Mail* 10 December 1990: A21.

Newspaper Article Unsigned

"Crisis in the Valley." *Chilliwack Progress* 14 November 1990: 1.

Magazine Article Signed

Zuehlke, Mark. "The Pitfalls of Freeing Enterprise." *Canada and the World* Apr. 1990: 24-27.

Magazine Article Unsigned

"Other Museums in the Province." *Datum* Spring 1982: 15-21.

NON-PRINT SOURCES

Interview

Kelly, Walt. President, Alano Club. Telephone interview. 20 April 1950.

Film or Video Recording

Native Land Claims in B.C. Video recording. Target Canada, 1976.

Recording

Mozart, Wolfgang A. *Symphony nos. 40 & 41 ("Jupiter")*. Cond. George Szell. Cleveland Orch.
CBS, MYT-37220, 1981.

Radio or Television Programmes

The Scales of Justice. Writ. and dir. by Eddy Greenspan and George Jonas. With Barbara
Turnbull. CBC, Vancouver. 2 December 1990.

Live Performance

Hamlet. By William Shakespeare. Dir. Ian Fenwick. With Andy Thompson. Chilliwack
Community Arts Centre, Chilliwack, B.C. 14 March 1990.

ONLINE PERIODICALS

When including electronic sources in your Works Cited list, the publication information that is most valuable to your reader can be divided into the following sections:

- 1) Author's name. 2) Title of document. 3) Information about print publication.
- 4) Information about electronic publication. 5) Access information.

Within these sections, there may be further publication details that you can provide. These details may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Author's(s') name(s). 2) "Title of article." 3) *Name of the periodical the article is in.*
- 4) Volume and/or issue number. 5) Date of publication. 6) The number range or total number of pages, paragraphs, or other sections, *if they are numbered.* 7) Date you most recently accessed the document. 8) URL

Note: if an URL is very long and complex, direct your reader to the URL of the site's search page, or indicate the "path" the reader can take to access the document (as shown below). From there, your reader can seek the exact article, using the other publication data you have listed.

As electronic publications are part of an evolving and unfixed medium, please note that the amount and type of publication data available to you may vary somewhat from online document to online document. The following outlines some of the ways in which the basic format for online periodicals might be adjusted to suit the publication data you find. For more specific information, consult the Sixth Edition of the MLA Handbook.

Article in an Online Scholarly Journal

Dane, Gabrielle. "Reading Ophelia's Madness." *Exemplaria* 10.2 (1998). 22 June 2002.

<<http://web.english.ufl.edu/english/exemplaria/danefram.htm>>.

Journal Article from a Full-Text Database

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture* 10.3 (2000).

Project Muse. 20 May 2002 <<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/pmc/v010/10.3chan.html>>.

Article in a Newspaper with an Author

Bains, Camille. "City Looks at Improving Access before Games." *Vancouver Sun* 6 Oct. 2003.

12 Oct. 2003 <<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/vancouverstory.asp?id=94C2972E>>.

Article in a Newspaper without an Author

“Packers’ Revenge.” *The Province* 6 Oct. 2003. 15 Oct. 2003 <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/theprovince/story.asp?id=4E8173F1>>.

Article in a Magazine

Brooke, David. “The Culture of Martyrdom.” *Atlantic Online* June 2002. 24 Sept. 2002
<<http://www.msnbc.com/news/754336.asp>>.

Review

Kisselgoff, Anna. “A First Work with Hot and Cool Spices.” Rev. of *Haiku*, chor. Albert Evans. New York State Theater. *New York Times on the Web* 18 May 2002. 20 May 2002
<<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/18/arts/dance/18PRIS.html>>.

Abstract

Note: if an URL is very long and complex, direct your reader to the URL of the site’s search page, or indicate the ‘path’ the reader can take to access the document (as shown below). From there, your reader can seek the exact article, using the other publication data you have listed.

Nastali, Dan, and Phil Boardman. “Searching for Arthur: Literary Highways, Electronic Byways, and Cultural Backroads.” *Arthuriana* 11.4 (2001): 108-22. Abstract. 1 Oct. 2002
<http://www.smu.edu/arthuriana/>>. Path: Abstracts; K-O.

ONLINE DOCUMENTS (NON-PERIODICALS)

Entire Website

CNN.com. 2002. Cable News Network. 15 may 2002 <<http://www.cnn.com/>>.

Entire Website with an Editor

Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. May 2000. Indiana U. 26 June 2002
<<http://ww.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>>.

Homepage

Writing Centre. Homepage. University College of the Fraser Valley. 30 Sept. 2003
<http://www.ucfv.ca/writing_centre/>.

Online Book

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Ed. Henry Churchyard. 1996. *Jane Austen Information Page*. 6 Sept. 2002 <<http://ww.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pridprej.html>>.

Part of an Online Book

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. “Self-Reliance.” *Essays: First Series*. 1841. 12 Feb. 1997
<<ftp://ftp.books.com/ebooks/NonFiction/Philosophy/Emerson/History.txt>>.

Online Government Publication

Canada. Indian and Northern Affairs. *Outstanding Business: A Native Claims Policy*. May 2001.

Aug. 21 2002 < <http://canada.gc.ca/articles/may/3456-0000-01.htm>>.

The Writing Centre at the University College of the Fraser Valley

- *promotes and researches writing as a foundational activity connected to critical thinking and learning in a post-secondary setting,*
- *provides a confidential service offering writing instruction to students who wish to become effective writers in their fields of study, and*
- *engages in dialogue with UCFV's community of learners about the teaching of writing in discipline areas.*

