

MLA Style

IN-TEXT CITATION

Information from an outside source can be directly quoted or paraphrased, but it should always be cited. Citing allows a reader to find the original source and additional information it includes, and it prevents plagiarism. When using MLA style, note that all text is double-spaced.

1. The basic parenthetical citation requires the author's last name and page number.

Example:

Mr. Thornton watches his factory as the strikers attempt to break down the doors. Mr. Thornton asks, "When can the soldiers be here?" in a reference to assistance in breaking the strike (Gaskell 162).

2. If the author is referenced in the sentence, only the page number needs to be cited.

Example:

Hori later states that obake are sometimes so strongly feared that specific regional cultures have adopted practices of medicine to protect the people from their influence (421).

3. If the author is unknown, the first significant words of the title should be used.

Example:

A review in the *New Yorker* of Ryan Adam's new album focuses on the artist's age ("Pure" 25).

4. If the page number is unknown (as with many web-based documents), try to cite the source in the text.

Example:

According to the World Trade Organization's definition, Nicaragua does not qualify as a least-developed nation.

SAMPLE BLOCK QUOTATION

Quotations longer than four lines in your paper must be set off in a block, doubled-spaced, indented one inch, without quotation marks. The citation of a block quotation fall outside the final period.

Example:

In the *Buddhist Scriptures*, the potential for enlightenment is discussed with reference to the lotus:

Just as in a pond of blue and red lotuses, some lotuses that are born and grow in water thrive immersed in the water. . . so too, surveying the world with the eye of a Buddha, I saw beings with little dust in their eyes and with much dust in their eyes. (Lopez 112)

The lotuses not quite reaching the surface of the water are analogous to the people with a little dust in their eyes—they are striving for enlightenment but do not quite reach it in their current lifetime.

Black Hills State University *writing center*

MLA WORKS CITED PAGE

Works cited pages are the last page of the document and contain the bibliographic information of each source. Sources are organized alphabetically and doubled-spaced with a hanging indent.

Books

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Publication City: Publication Company, Year.

Example:

Hendry, Joy. *Understanding Japanese Society*. New York: Taylor & Francis, 2003.

Periodicals

Lastname, Firstname. "Article Name." *Name of Journal/Magazine*. Date: Pages.

Example:

Thornburgh, Nathan. "Escaping from Dropout Nation." *Time*. 25 Jan. 2007: 1.

Scholarly Journals

Lastname, Firstname. "Article Name." *Name of Journal*. Volume.Issue (Year): Pages.

Example:

Nelson, John. "Social Memory as Ritual Practice: Commemorating the Spirits of the Military Dead at Yasukuni Shinto Shrine." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 62 (May 2003): 443-468.

Library Database or Subscription Service

Lastname, Firstname. "Article Name." *Name of Publication*. Volume.Issue (Year):
Pages. Name of Database. School, Library Name. Date of Access
<webaddressofdatabase>.

Example:

Nelson, John. "Social Memory as Ritual Practice: Commemorating the Spirits of the Military Dead at Yasukuni Shinto Shrine." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 62 (May 2003): 443-468.
ProQuest. Black Hills State University, EY Berry Lib. 7 December 2006
<<http://www.proquest.umi.com>>.

More information on MLA Style:

MLA Handbook, 6th Ed.

The Penguin Handbook, pages 348-411.

MLA Guide at *The Online Writing Center at Purdue*. <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

The BHSU Writing Center, E. Y. Berry Library. <http://www.bhsu.edu/writingcenter>