

English 1A – Composition
Fall 2006, San José State University
Section 01: MW 07:30-08:45, SH 238

VERY BASIC MLA Citation Examples

“MLA” stands for the Modern Language Association, and its formatting and style system is used throughout the humanities. This sheet outlines some of the more common types of citations you’ll use. For more detailed examples, see the link on the course website for “Purdue's Online Writing Lab: MLA Formatting and Style Guide” and also Chapter 34, “MLA Documentation with Case Study,” of the Handbook for Writers.

Parenthetical References in the Text

You use parenthetical references in the text to match the quoted or paraphrased information with its original source. Typically, parenthetical references follow this format when quotes or paraphrased information is used without introducing the author:

- (Author Last Name Page #) such as (Smith 25)

If there are two authors for the work you are citing, use

- (Author Last Name1 and Author Last Name2 Page #) such as (Smith and Jones 52)

If you introduce your quote or paraphrased information by including the author information, then do not include it in the parenthetical reference. For instance:

- According to John Smith, we are “doomed” (51).

Other notes about parenthetical references:

- The reference always appears at the end of the sentence in which the quotation or paraphrasing is located.
- The period goes after the parenthesis.
- There is no page number used for parenthetical references of web sites.
- The basic idea of parenthetical references is to point the user directly to the citation at the end.

The Works Cited List

All references in your text should match up with a citation in the Works Cited list.

- The list of Works Cited must be on a new page at the end of your text
- Entries are arranged alphabetically by the author's last name, or by the title if there is no author
- Titles should be underlined and all important words should be capitalized
- Entries are double-spaced

Below are some examples of the most common types of sources (these are all from Purdue's OWL):

- **Books**

Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Henley, Patricia. The Hummingbird House. Denver: MacMurray, 1999.

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring. Boston: Allyn, 2000.

- **Two or More Books by the Same Author**

Palmer, William J. Dickens and New Historicism. New York: St. Martin's, 1997.

---. The Films of the Eighties: A Social History. Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 1993.

- **Part of a Book**

Lastname, First name. "Title of Essay." Title of Collection. Ed. Editor's Name(s). Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pages.

Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One. Ed. Ben Rafoth. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2000. 24-34.

- **An Article in a Newspaper or Magazine**

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical Day Month Year: pages.

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." Time 20 Nov. 2000: 70-71.

- **An Article in a Scholarly Journal**

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume.Issue (Year): pages.

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's Bashai Tudu." Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature 15.1 (1996): 41-50.

- **Web Site**

Name of Site. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date you accessed the site <electronic address>.

Felluga, Dino. Guide to Literary and Critical Theory. 28 Nov. 2003. Purdue University. 10 May 2006 <<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/>>.

- **A Page on a Web Site**

"Deductive Reasoning." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. 22 October 2006. 23 October 2006 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deductive_reasoning>.