**MLA Citations Workshop**

**Facilitators**: **Location**:

**Date**: **Time**:

**Materials:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Writing Center Bookmarks (23) * Post Event Surveys (23) | * Citation Creation Handout (23) |

**Goals:**

***By the end of today’s workshop, you should be able to:***

* Understand the importance of citing and documenting sources in academic writing
* Differentiate between when to use paraphrasing, quoting, and/or summarizing in academic writing
* Know how to include correctly formatted citations using MLA Style

**Agenda:**

**General Workshop Introduction (3 minutes):**

* **[SLIDE 1]** Introduce Workshop Facilitators & the Writing Center; explain how specific Writing Center resources can be used to continue assisting students with today’s topic.
* **[SLIDE 2]** Discuss Main Goals of Workshop & provide a brief preview of what’s to come

**Integrating Sources (12 minutes):**

* **[SLIDE 3]** With only “Integrating Sources: Why?” revealed, ask class to name some of the main reasons why they add cited material to their academic paper
  + Once all suggestions are exhausted, reveal points on the slide and reiterate their importance in academic writing
* **[SLIDE 4]** “Integrating Sources: How?” You can integrate words, data or ideas, from another source through: summary, paraphrase and direct quotation
* Define terms and explain their purposes:
  + **[SLIDE 5]** Summary:
    - Emphasizes *points* over details
    - Usually distills a larger text into a few sentences, in your own words
    - Fits the source into the context of your writing
  + **[SLIDE 6]** Paraphrase:
    - Captures important *details* of a text in your own words
    - Modifies the language of a text to fit your context for writing
  + **[SLIDE 7]** Direct Quotes:
    - Maintains the original author’s phrasing word for word to highlight poignant phrasing, the author’s opinions, or contrasting perspective
* **[SLIDE 8]** Using Signal Phrases to Integrate Sources
  + Signal phrases help place a source in the context of your own writing. A Signal phrase should indicate the authors’ names and an action verb.
    - *Often times, the action verb can help reveal the writer’s intention of using the sources; for example, “Smith claims…” might sounds as though the writer doesn’t agree with the claim, whereas “Smith agrees…” obviously indicates the overlap of opinion between writer and source*
    - *Signal phrases like* rejected, refuted, *and* denied *can be used when discussing a counter argument*

**MLA Citations (12 minutes):**

* **[SLIDE 9]** MLA Citation Style
  + Typically used in Humanities
  + Prioritizes the author’s name as the owner of his or her ideas
* **[SLIDE 10]** In-Text Citation
  + **Didion describes [signal phrase]** that the night after her husband's unexpected death was “the beginning of my year of magical thinking” **(33). [page number]**
* **[SLIDE 11]** In-Text Citation
  + ***When citing a source that does not include a page number, simply do not offer the page number. Use a signal phrase* or *include simply the author’s name in a parenthetical.***
  + ***For videos, cite the time within the in-text citation (*“Buffy” *00:03:16-17)***
* **\*Check the time- you do not need to explain each of these sections, rather skip to the underlined section below**

**[SLIDE 12]** MLA Citation Style

* + **Core Elements:** 
    - **Author.** The person or people who wrote the text. If multiple authors, use the first listed first, starting with their last name. Subsequent authors can be listed normally (i.e.: Amber Slater versus Slater, Amber)
    - **Title.** The title of the specific text referenced. Follow basic rules of formatting – Articles, poems, episodes, etc. are placed in “quotation marks” while books, newspapers, journals, etc. are *italicized.*
    - **Title of container,** the larger text the in which the cited text is located, such as a scholarly journal, newspaper, magazine, anthology, etc. Follow formatting rules.
    - **Other contributors,** used when the text has an editor or translator.
    - **Version,** used when a text has specifically identified editions (i.e.: 2nd Edition, expanded edition, unabridged edition)
    - **Number,** the volume and/or number of a text
    - **Publisher,** the organization who published the text
    - **Publication date,** most recent or relevant date on text
    - **Location.** 
      * In print, the page range within the container (\***preceded by p. or pp.)**
      * For online texts, the location is the URL or DOI
  + **\*Start here depending on time:**  
    A **container** refers to the body of work the citation comes from – a container can be a book, article, TV show, work of art, interview, etc. A container may also be found in a larger container – for example: an article can be found in a journal; an essay within an anthology; a TV episode on a streaming website such as Netflix, etc.
  + Irrelevant elements can be omitted (for example: if there is no editor)
  + Punctuation be used as indicated on the template
  + When using a text found within another “container” (such as a database, anthology, digital library like Google Books or Netflix, etc.), repeat elements 3-9 for subsequent container.
* **[SLIDE 13]** MLA Works Cited Example
  + *In this instance, the title of the source (*The Year of Magical Thinking) *is the same as the container – or the text from which the citation is drawn – so the “container” space is left blank.*
  + *If we were citing a version of this book found online, such as on Google Books, we would consider Google Books to be the container.*
* **\*Watch the Time, you can skip slide 14 if necessary  
  [SLIDE 14]** MLA Style Block Quotations
  + The MLA Handbook recommends keeping direct quotations as brief as possible and to use them to help you explain or illustrate your own ideas. *However!* If you must use a quotation that is ***more than 4 lines*** (in your own document), you need to format it as a block quotation:
    - Indented ½ inch from left margin
    - *Do not indent the first line an extra amount or add quotation marks*
    - Use a colon to introduce the block quotation, *unless* the grammatical connection between your writing [signal phrase] and the quote require a different punctuation mark or none at all
    - Parenthetical references (i.e.: page number) follow the last line of the quotation.

**Citation Creation Activity (15 minutes):**

* **[SLIDE 15]** Have group break into pairs. **Distribute Citation Creation Handout** 
  + **[SLIDE 16]** Display Source 1 for 5 minutes, allowing pairs to create a citation based on the source.
  + **[SLIDE 17]** Display the answer to Source 1, and discuss any questions or issues students had creating the citation
  + **[SLIDE 18 & 19]** Repeat for source 2

**Post Event Survey (3 minutes)**

* Remind students they can visit the Writing Center at any phase of their writing process
  + Show students the Writing Center website > Resources for Writers > Citations & Style Guides
* Distribute Post Event Surveys / Collect Post Event Surveys. Place these in the “Post Event Survey” file holder outside the Workshops Room in the Writing Center.