

**“How Do I Cite This?” MLA Handout**

**What to Cite**

* Quotations, paraphrases, and summaries of an outside source
* Ideas from another source
* Little-known or arguable claims
* Images, videos, or music
* Graphs, tables, and other statistical information from a source
* Experiments, surveys, and interviews conducted by others
* Lecture notes

**Incorporating Quotes, Paraphrases, and Summaries**

**General Guidelines**

* Introduce the quote, paraphrase, or summary so that it connects to your ideas and lets us know where it comes from.
* Some common verbs used to introduce quotes, paraphrases or summaries include: *claims, writes, argues,* *contends, notes, states,* and *finds* (note that MLA uses the present tense).
* Provide an in-text citation at the end of the sentence.

**Quoting**: Uses the exact words from another source and include quotation marks around the passage. You can use brackets [ ] and ellipses … to show modifications.

*Example introducing the author(s):* Bilingual education theorist Lily Wong Fillmore argues, “In a society that is as diverse in linguistic, cultural, and national origins as the USA, it is inevitable that language would eventually become a source of conflict in education” (340).

*Example without introducing the author and showing bracket modification of original capital letter:*The reality we find is that, “[i]n a society that is as diverse in linguistic, cultural, and national origins as the USA, it is inevitable that language would eventually become a source of conflict in education,” as indeed it has (Fillmore 340).

**Paraphrasing**: States ideas from an original source but *not* the author’s original words and does not need quotation marks around the whole passage.

Keep in mind the following:

* Keep the author’s main ideas; don’t stray from the main point
* Use your own words
* Use your own sentence structure
* Include specially memorable language in quotation marks
* Keep your comments, notes, and explanations separate

*Example:* Language within education is a contentious subject because of the level of diversity within the United States (Fillmore 340).

**Summarizing:** States the main point or main idea from an original source but *not* specific details and does not need quotation marks

**In-Text Citation**

At the end of your sentence in parentheses should be the author’s last name and page number. The period will go after the citation. Here is an example:

In his article about learning foreign languages, Inozu states, “In the context of foreign language learning, research in the last three decades suggests that learner beliefs have the potential to influence both their experiences and actions” (645).

Attitudes toward learning a foreign language can affect how a student begins to understand it (Inozu 645).

Of course, sometimes citations are not this straightforward. If there are multiple authors or no author or no page numbers, etc., please see one of our resources listed at the end of the handout for additional information.

**Formatting**

In the upper right hand corner, include your last name with the page number.



In the upper left hand corner, include the following information:

Your Name

Your Instructor’s Name

Your Class

The Date (day/month/year)

(Russell, Brizee, and Angeli)

**Works Cited**

(This is what the bibliographic citations at the end of your paper are called in MLA)

**Book**

Year of publication

Author (Last name, first name)

City of publication

Lahiri, Jhumpa. *The Namesake*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003. Print.

Medium of publication

Publisher

Title of book (italicized)

**Work in an Anthology**

Title of anthology (italicized)

Title of short story (in quotes)

Steinbeck, John. “The Chrysanthemums.” *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction,*

*Poetry, Drama and Writing*. 11th ed. Ed. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. New

York: Longman, 2010. 226-33. Print.

Editors (First name, last name)

Edition

**Journal Article from a Database**

Name of journal (italicized)

Name of article (in quotes)

Totaro, Rebecca. “Securing sleep in Hamlet.” *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*

50.2 (2010): 407. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 29 Aug. 2013.

Date you found the article

Issue number

Volume number

Year of publication (in parentheses)

Page numbers of article

Name of database (italicized)

**Online Newspaper or Magazine Article**

Name of article (in quotes)

Name of newspaper or magazine (in italics)

Perez-Pena, Richard. “Smoothing the Path From Foreign Lips to American Ears.” *The*

*New York Times*. The New York Times Company, 28 Aug. 2012. Web. 29 Aug.

2013.

Date you found the article

Date of publication

Publisher

**Web Site**

Name of website (italicized)

Name of specific page (in quotes)

“Hourly News Summary.” *National Public Radio*. Natl. Public Radio, 20 July 2007.

Web. 20 Sept. 2013.

Date of publication

Publisher

**Things to Watch Out For**

* Is your quote really long?
* Does the source have multiple authors?
* Is the passage you want to use from someone other than the author?
* Do you need to leave out a portion of the quote?
* Do you need to add a word or two to the quote in order for it to make sense?

If any of these things happen, you’re not alone. Look to the following **resources** for help:

* Your instructor (check your syllabus for contact information including email and office hours)
* The Writing Center
  + Loop: 1600 Lewis Center, (312)362-6726
  + Lincoln Park: 250 McGaw Hall, (773)325-4272
* *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers,* Seventh Edition
  + Available in the Writing Center and library
* *St. Martin’s Handbook*
  + Available in the Writing Center and library
* Purdue OWL: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/resource/747/01/>
* Diana Hacker: <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0001.html>

**Works Cited**

Fillmore, Lily Wong. “Language in Education.” *Language in the USA*. Ed. Edward

Finegan and John R. Rickford. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004. 339-360. Print.

Inozu, Julide. “Beliefs About Foreign Language Learning Among Students Training to

Teach English As A Foreign Language.” *Social Behavior & Personality: An*

*International Journal* 39.5 (2011): 645-653. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 4 Oct. 2013.

Russell, Tony, Allen Brizee, and Elizabeth Angeli. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide."

The Purdue OWL. Purdue U Writing Lab, 4 Apr. 2010. Web. 29 Sept. 2013.