MLA- Modern Language Association

Used for History, English and Humanities

Citing: You must cite when you are using information taken from another source. This includes words, ideas, sentiments, etc.

Paraphrasing: Taking a portion of text and putting it in your own words. In order for paraphrasing to be considered effective you must change the wording significantly. There can only be ten words that are similar, if there are more it is considered plagiarism.

Direct quote: Taking word for word from a source. You must put it in quotation marks and cite it. If there are more than four lines of directly cited material then you must put it in a block quote. You must introduce direct quotes with a comma or a colon. Ex. One famous line from *Hamlet* is, “To be or not to be,” (Shakespeare v:1)

Block quote: Four or more lines of directly cited material. Indent ten spaces with hanging indent. No quotation marks and punctuation comes before citation (Jones 48).

Introducing cite in text: According to Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* were star crossed lovers torn apart by warring families (V:ii). You have already introduced the author; therefore you can use the page numbers, scene or lines.

If you only use one source for a paragraph then you cite it at the end of the paragraph.

If you use multiple sources then you must cite after each part that you used.

Italicized or underlined: movies, album titles, television shows, poem titles, journal titles, magazine titles, book titles and newspapers.

In quotation marks: article titles, song titles, etc.

Thesis: the main idea of your paper. You must prove your thesis or defend it in your paper. Avoid using statements such as In this paper, This paper will, avoid using you, I and we. It must be clear and concise. Must be in the introductory paragraph.

The in text citations must match the work cited page. You can never cite in text using a web address. EVER.

Indirect Source: When you can, avoid quoting from a secondhand source. When you cannot use the original source, mention the name of the person you quoting in your sentence. In your parenthetical note, include **qtd. in** plus the name of the author of the source in which you found quotation (qtd. in Orrey 62).

Podcast citation:

“Serial.” Narr. Sarah Koenig*. This American Life*. Natl.Public Radio. 27 November 2014. Podcast.

September 2015.

MLA is a format that must be followed exactly. There is no room for interpretation. The second line is always indented.

The work cited page is alphabetized.

Work Cited builders: citationmachine.net. It will build it but the formatting might not be correct. Always check the formatting.

Owl at Purdue should become your best friend. It will show you how to cite in text and work cited for everything.