MLA Basics

Northampton Community College
Mack and Monroe Libraries

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The University of Akron – Wayne College

Examples taken from the:
MLA Handbook, 8th edition and the
NCC Library MLA Handout
Citing Your Sources...

- Means telling your readers where the information came from
- Is a courtesy to the original authors
- Is a courtesy to your readers
Not Citing Your Sources...

- Is called plagiarism
- Is a form of dishonesty
- Can bring severe penalties, including:
  - Failing your assignment
  - Failing your course
  - Failing out of college
As You Research...

- Consult the Library’s MLA handout or the *MLA Handbook, 8th* edition to see what information you need.

- Make copies of the book chapter or article from the journal, magazine, newspaper, etc.

- Write the necessary publication information and page number on the copies.
When to Cite a Source

- Always – when you quote directly
- When the information is not common knowledge
- Whenever you quote, paraphrase, or summarize an author’s information
Citing In-Text

- Give the author’s last name and the page number of the source you are using.
  
  - Example: The article covers “material on public record about chronic fatigue syndrome” (Hacking 210).

- Refers the reader to the Works Cited page.

- Give page numbers or paragraph numbers for quotes.
In 1846 the military occupation of Columbia County, Pennsylvania, began. The cause of this occupation was stated as a Copperhead movement in the area ("Copperheads" 421). Insurgents “had erected a fort… they had field-pieces or cannon, and …refugees from Canada and deserters from other sections had joined them in considerable forces” (Freeze 401). The formation of this movement was a significant stage in Columbia County history.
The Works Cited Page

- Center the words Works Cited at the top—no quotes, italics, or underline.
- Arrange sources alphabetically, beginning with author’s last name.
- If no author is given, alphabetize by the first word in the source’s title, other than A, An, or The.
- Do not justify the right margin.


For More Help

- MLA Handout from the Library Reference Desk (also available online at the Library website)
- Learning Center Writing Tutors
- Other NCC Library documentation links and handouts under “Need Help?” → “Citing Sources”
  
  Library’s web site [http://www.northampton.edu/Library.htm](http://www.northampton.edu/Library.htm)

- MLA website [https://style.mla.org/](https://style.mla.org/)

- View other MLA tutorials:
  - In-Text Citations
  - The Works Cited Page
Questions?

- Stop by the Learning Center!
- Stop by the Library Reference Desk at the Mack (Bethlehem) and Monroe libraries
- **Call** the Library Reference Desk:
  - Mack (Bethlehem): 610-861-5359
  - Monroe: 570-369-1810
- **Email** a librarian - askthelibrarian@northampton.edu