Writing In-Text Citations Using MLA Style

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
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
What Is In-Text Citation?

- As you write the body of your paper and you type information that came from one of your sources, you cite the source information to give credit to the original author.

  - **Example**: The article covers material on public record about chronic fatigue syndrome *(Hacking 210)*.

- Refers reader to the Works Cited page.
Paraphrased Material

Even if you summarize information from a source, you have to give it credit by citing:

– The author’s name
– The page number where you found the information
In his article in *Rolling Stone*, Jones says that Siskel and Ebert rate *Pleasantville* as the best movie of 1998 (72).
Paraphrased Material

Author’s name may appear with the page or paragraph number within parentheses at the end of the sentence.

Siskel and Ebert say *Pleasantville* is the best movie of 1998 (Jones 72).
Gracefully Introducing Quotes

- Use the author’s last name.

- Show which ideas originally came from another author by using words such as: declares; says; asserts; describes; explains; reports; believes.

- Avoid using the word “feels.”
Documenting Quotations

- **Short quotes**: Fewer than 4 typed lines of prose or 3 lines of verse
- **Long quotes**: More than 4 typed lines
Short Quotes

- Put quotation marks around quoted material.

- Cite the source in parentheses.

- Place the period after the closing parenthesis.
Examples: Short Quotes

Jones states, “Siskel and Ebert think *Pleasantville* will top the charts” (72).

Some are saying, “*Pleasantville* will win an Academy Award” (Jones 73).
Long Quotes

- Longer than 4 lines
- In block form
- Indent the entire quote 10 spaces (1 inch).
- DO NOT use quotation marks.
- Maintain double-spacing.
- Cite the source after the end punctuation of the quote.
At the conclusion of *Lord of the Flies*, Golding has Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (186)
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:
  - MLA Basics
  - The Works Cited Page
Questions?

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