MLA Citation Style Sheet

Anglistik Literaturwissenschaft

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

In-Text Citation

The list of works cited at the end of your research paper is not in itself enough to provide precise documentation of your sources. You must make clear what ideas, facts or words you have used and where you found them, in your text, by indicating them with the proper use of citation.

- When referring to works of others in your text, the MLA style requires you to put relevant source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase. This is known as parenthetical citation.

- In in-text citations, according to MLA guidelines, you have to provide the name of the author whose work you are quoting or paraphrasing and the page number of the used material.

Example 1:

Wuthering Heights is commonly among the most favourite 19th century novels of the modern-day readers (Sutherland 690).

Example 2:

According to Bhambra, "postcolonialism should not be understood as simply the latest version of a critical engagement in social thought" (15).

- If the text you are citing is unpaginated, as for example, some electronic publications in PDF are, you do not provide this information by counting the pages. Instead, you cite the complete work.

Example 1:

According to Rogers, part of the term's ambiguity lies in the misconception that it is "contemporary fantasy written to a high literary standard".

Example 2:

Another difficulty lies in the fact that Magical Realism is often conceived as "contemporary fantasy written to a high literary standard" (Rogers).

Example 3:

In *What is Magical Realism Really?* Rogers claims that part of the difficulty in establishing Magical Realism as a genre lies in it often being confused with popular contemporary fantasy literature.

- Any source information you provide in your text MUST correspond to the source information on the works cited list!

- If the works cited list contains more than one work by the same author, the title of the work cited is added, in full or shortened, after the name of the author.

Example:

Rushdie explains that it is a particular luxury that a "literary migrant" enjoys being able "to choose his own parents" (*Homelands* 21) and claims that it is through "mélange, hotchpotch [mixing] a bit of this and a bit of that … how newness enters the world" (*In Good Faith* 394).

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Formatting In-Text Quotations

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- Quotes are formatted differently depending on their length. Short quotes of less than 4 typed lines of prose or 3 lines of verse are inserted in your text and indicated with quotation marks. As always parenthetical citation (author and page or line number in case of verse) must be provided.

- Punctuation marks such as full stops, commas, semicolons, exclamation points and question marks should appear after the parenthetical citation if they are part of your text but within the quotation marks if they are part of the quote.

Example 1: Kahlil Gibran's desire for an unconstricted and free life is often expressed in his letters to his lover, Mary Haskell, in his yearning for foreign places, "I love to be the solitary traveler!" and his love of storms "I often picture myself living on a mountain top, in the most stormy country (not the coldest) in the world. Is there such a place? If there is I shall go to it someday (...)", which represent the uncontrollable part of nature (Schutz and Hoffman 22, 33).

- Mark the end of lines or breaks in short quotations of verse within the quotation marks with a slash between each line, which should be framed by a space.

Example:

The speaker concludes, "I have taken the road less travelled by, / And that has made all the difference" (Frost 19-20).

- Longer quotations of more than 4 lines of prose or 3 lines of verse are placed in a free-standing block of text. Blocks of longer quotations of prose have to be indented by 1.25 cm (or one tab stop) on the left and the parenthetical citation should come after the full stop.

Example:

As a result of her prejudices and superstitions, Nelly Dean is incapable of accepting him as a new member of the Earnshaw family and goes as far as negating his humanity and dehumanizing him by calling him "it":

> They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. (Brontë 78)

- When citing longer pieces of poetry, you should adhere to the original formatting as closely as possible.

<u>Example:</u>

In his poem "Annus Mirabilis" from 1667, John Dryden commemorates the year 1665 to 1666 which was a year of great tragedies for the English and the city of London, and then glorifies the way they and it rose against these difficulties and mastered them:

> Methinks already from this chemic flame,
>   I see a city of more precious mould:
> Rich as the town which gives the Indies name,
>   With silver paved, and all divine with gold.
>
> Already labouring with a mighty fate,
>   She shakes the rubbish from her mounting brow,
> And seems to have renew'd her charter's date,
>   Which Heaven will to the death of time allow.
>
> More great than human now, and more august,
>   Now deified she from her fires does rise:
> Her widening streets on new foundations trust,
>   And opening into larger parts she flies.
> Before, she like some shepherdess did show,
>   Who sat to bathe her by a river's side;
> Not answering to her fame, but rude and low,
>   Nor taught the beauteous arts of modern pride.
> Now, like a maiden queen, she will behold,
>   From her high turrets, hourly suitors come;
> The East with incense, and the West with gold,
>   Will stand, like suppliants, to receive her doom! (*Norton* 2085-86)

- If you are quoting more than a paragraph in block text, you need to indent the first line of each paragraph additional 0.5 cm.

<u>Example:</u>

> … I resolved to silence it, if possible; and, I thought, I rose and endeavoured to unhasp the casement. The hook was soldered into the staple, a circumstance observed by me when awake, but forgotten. "I must stop it, nevertheless!" I mu ttered, knocking my knuckles through the glass, and stretching an arm out to seize the importunate branch: instead of which, my fingers closed on the fingers of a little, ice-cold hand!
>
> The intense horror of nightmare came over me; I tried to draw back my arm, but the hand clung to it, and a most melancholy voice sobbed, "Let me in – let me in!" "Who are you ?" I asked, struggling, meanwhile, to disengage myself. "Catherine Linton," it replied, shiveringly (why did I think o f Linton? I had read Earnshaw twenty times for Linton). "I'm co me home, I'd lost my way on the moor!" (Brontë 20-21)

- If you add anything in a quotation, you must put it in square brackets to indicate that it is an addition and not part of the original text. However, if you omit words or passages from the original text in your quote, you have to indicate the omission by using ellipsis (…).

Example:

Jack Zipes asserts that although "[Disney] changed our way of viewing fairy tales, (...) his revolutionary technical means capitalized on American innocence and utopianism to reinforce the social and political status quo" (333).

List of Works Cited/Bibliography

- MLA citations are created using the following core elements: author, title of source, title of "container", other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date and location in a particular order. Apart from this, there are no set rules for each type of media, allowing an easier citation of new media such as tweets and DVDs. Placeholders for unknown information (e.g. "n.d.") are not required. The order is as follows:

  Author. "Title." *Title of the container*. Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher's name, Date of publication, Location.
- Entries are listed alphabetically with the author's last name first. First name follows the comma and middle name or initials after that.

Example:

Ashcroft, Bill.

Bhambhra, Gurminder K.

Rowling, Joanne K.

- Like the rest of the text, the list of works cited should also be double spaced. Do not leave extra space between listings.
- Capitalize each word in the titles but do not capitalize articles (the, an), prepositions, or conjunctions unless it is the first word of the title or subtitle.
- The usage of pseudonyms for authors are allowed. For example, "@realDonaldTrump." instead of "Trump, Donald.", when quoting Donald Trump from Twitter.
- Words that were abbreviated in the previous MLA versions (e.g. Ed.) are no longer shortened.
- The medium of publication is not stated, unless for clarity.
- The city of publication is omitted, unless it is of relevance to the paper (e.g. British vs. American version).
- Citing the date of an online source is optional.
- Forward slash (/) separates names of co-publishers.
- When an organization is both author and publisher of a work, the organization's name is now given only once, usually as the publisher.

- Titles of larger works such as books or magazines are put in italics and smaller works (works published within anthologies, books and magazines) such as poems, short stories or articles are put in quotation marks.

Example:

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

The Book Thief.

Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. MacMurray, 1999.

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's Bashai Tudu." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, vol. 15, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-50.

Books

- The basic format for entries is:

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year of Publication.

Example 1: Book by one author (monograph), primary and secondary literature.

Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights.* Oxford University Press, 1999.

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction.* 2nd ed. Blackwell, 1996.

Example 2: Book by two authors:

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

Gilbert, Sandra M., and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-century Literary Imagination.* Yale University Press, 2000.

Example 3: Book by several authors or editors:

Ashcroft, Bill et. al. *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literatures.* London: Routledge, 1989.

Hill, Charles A., and Marguerite Helmers, editors. *Defining Visual Rhetorics*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004.

Example 4: Two or more books by the same author are listed alphabetically by their titles:

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre.* Oxford University Press, 2008. Print.

    ---. *The Professor.* Oxford University Press, 2008. Print.

    ---. *Villette.* Oxford University Press, 2008. Print.

Example 5: A translated book:

   i. If you want to emphasize the work or narrator, rather than the translator:

Foucault, Michel. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. Translated by Richard Howard, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

   ii. If you want to emphasize the translator rather than the work:

Howard, Richard, translator. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. By Michel Foucault, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

Example 6: An anthology or collection of articles:

Hill, Charles A., and Marguerite Helmers, editors. *Defining Visual Rhetorics*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004.

Peterson, Nancy J., editor. *Toni Morrison: Critical and Theoretical Approaches*. Johns Hopkins UP, 1997.

Example 7: A primary text (Poem, short story or essay) from an anthology or collection:

Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*, edited by Ben Rafoth, Heinemann, 2000, pp. 24-34.

Kincaid, Jamaica. "Girl." *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories*. edited by Tobias Wolff, Vintage, 1994, pp. 306-07.

Periodicals

- When the title of a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) begins with an article (*A*, *An*, *The*), the article is now treated as part of the title: the article is italicized and its first letter capitalized. For example, the handbook previously specified "the *Georgia Review*" in text and "*Georgia Review*" in the works-cited list but now specifies "*The Georgia Review*" in all contexts.

- If an issue of a scholarly journal is dated with a month or season, the month or season is now always cited along with the year.

- The basic format for entries is:

Author(s) Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical,* Day Month Year, pages.

Example:

Nikolajeva, Maria. "Fairy Tale and Fantasy: from Archaic to Postmodern." *Marvels & Tales: Journal of Fairy-Tale Studies,* 17 Jan. 2003, pp. 138–156.

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time,* 20 Nov. 2000, pp. 70-71.

Electronic Sources/Web Publications

- The basic format for citation of electronic sources is:

Author. "Title". *Title of container* (self-contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages,

paragraphs and/or URL, DOI or permalink). *2ⁿᵈ container's title*, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

- Giving the DOI is encouraged. URLs are stated in the following format.

Example:

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008,

owl.english.purdue.edu/owl. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.

- If you are citing an image, such as a painting, a photograph or a sculpture provide the artist's name, title or name of the work italicized, the date of creation, the institution and city where it is housed, followed by the name of the Website you found it on in italics, and the date of access.

Example:

Goya, Francisco. *The Family of Charles IV*. 1800. Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid. *Museo Nacional del Prado*, www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-work/the-family-of-carlos-iv/f47898fc-aa1c-48f6-a779-71759e417e74. Accessed 22 May 2006.

- @TwitterHandle. "Content of Tweet." Twitter, Date, Time, URL (omit http:// or https://).

- An article in an online-only journal:

For all articles in journals with only an online presence, provide the name of the author, the title in quotation marks, the title of the journal in italics, volume and issue numbers and the year of publication. Add the medium of publication and date of access. If necessary add n. pag. (no pagination) to indicate that there is no pagination.

Example:

Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal,* vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362. Accessed 20 May 2009.

Sources

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook*. 8th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

"What's New in the Eighth Edition." *Modern Language Association*, www.mla.org/MLA-Style/What-s-New-in-the-Eighth-Edition.

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