

PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION – MLA STYLE

Note: This is a brief explanation of what parenthetical documentation is and how information should be cited. If you have any additional questions, please speak with myself or a librarian.

The list of works cited at the end of a research paper provides an acknowledgement of sources but the parenthetical documentation provides the true detail of sources. *“You must indicate to your reader not only what works you used in writing the paper, but also exactly what you derived from each source and exactly where in the work you found the material”* (Gibaldi 204).

Plagiarism: Taking credit for someone else’s idea is the equivalent of stealing and is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of our District Academic Ethics Code. “Plagiarism is defined as the appropriating and putting forth as one’s own, the ideas, language or creation of another, without citing the correct sources [and] students at Arlington High School are expected to live up to the highest standard of academic honesty” (Arlington High School Handbook for Students 40). **It is unacceptable to copy something out of a book, newspaper, journal or any other printed or electronic source. The most blatant example of this is to directly copy something word for word. It does not matter if it is only a phrase.**

Paraphrasing: When you take the author’s ideas and put them into your own words. This is permissible, however, when a citation follows the paraphrase at the end of the sentence. Failure to do so is plagiarism.

Quotation: Use quotations whenever you use the exact wording of the author. Place quotation marks around the information and place the citation at the end of the quote.

When is parenthetical documentation used?

- You are using the author’s exact words
- The information or idea is paraphrased

When in doubt – ask a teacher or librarian!



EXAMPLES: These examples highlight different methods of using parenthetical citations. At the end of the examples is the actual Works Cited for this reference.

AUTHOR’S NAME IN CITATION:

“When adults cannot get jobs at wages that help them sustain their families, the cycle of poverty goes on” (Smith 19).

AUTHOR’S NAME IN SENTENCE:

According to Kathlyn Smith, “When adults cannot get jobs at wages that help them sustain their families, the cycle of poverty goes on” (19).

TITLE OF BOOK IN SENTENCE:

As argued in *Child Labor*, “When adults cannot get jobs at wages that help them sustain their families, the cycle of poverty goes on” (19).

LONG QUOTE: Note: The quote is *indented* and *single spaced*.

Kathlyn Smith explains the relationship between wage level, employment and education:

“When adults cannot get jobs at wages that help them sustain their families, the cycle of poverty goes on. Children who work instead of going to school have little chance to find jobs that will help increase their income. If children are forced to work in conditions that damage them physically and emotionally, their prospects are even worse for a better life” (19-20).

AT THE END OF A PARAGRAPH:

...it is problematic because if a child must work instead of going to school, they have very few, if any, opportunities to find employment that will ultimately lead to an increase in take-home income. Furthermore, the ultimate end of this practice will lead to physical, of not emotional, damage, which will worsen their chances of job advancement even more (Smith 20).

WORKS CITED PAGE FORMAT: Note: works are in alphabetical order

Works Cited

Smith, Kathlyn. *Child Labor*. Brookfield: Millbrook Press, 1998. Print.

REMEMBER!

Keep you parenthetical reference brief.

Give only the information necessary to identify a source.



WORKS CITED – MLA STYLE CITING PRINT, INTERVIEWS & VIDEO SPOURCES

Note: This is a short list of common works used for research. Ask a teacher or librarian for help if you come across something that is different from what is presented here.

BOOK: If you use a book with more than one author, simply name the first author listed, followed by the second author's first name and last name.

Author's last name, author's first name. *Title of the book*. City of publication: publication
company, year of publication. Print.

One Author:

Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. New York: Scholastic, 1988. Print.

Two Authors:

Leakey, Richard E., and Roger Lewin. *People of the Lake*. Garden City: Anchor-Doubleday, 1978.
Print.

Three Authors, Editors (eds.) or Compilers (comps.):

Giachina, J.W., William Weeks, and Elmer Brune, eds. *Welding Skills and Practices*. Chicago: Amer.
Tech. Soc., 1971. Print.

One Editor, No Author:

Foley, Martha, ed. *200 Years of Great Short Stories*. Boston: Houghton, 1975. Print.
(2 or more editors, follow author example above)

No Author or Editor:

Webster's Biographical Dictionary. Springfield: Merriam, 2000. Print.

BOOK – WITH AN EDITOR: If you have more than one editor, simply name the first editor listed, followed by the word et al., which means "and others."

Editor's last name, editor's first name, Ed. *Title of the book*. Edition. City of publication:
Publication company, year of publication. Print.

Examples:

Newcomb, Horace, Ed. *Television: The Critical View*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. Print.

Rein, Mei Ling, Ed., et al. *Immigration and Illegal Aliens: Burden or Blessings*. 1999 ed. Wylie: Information Plus, 1999. Print.

BOOK – WITH AN AUTHOR AND EDITOR:

Author's last name, author's first name. "Title of the article." *Title of the book*. Ed. Editor's name. Edition. City of publication: Publication company, year of publication. Print.

Examples:

SIGNED articles in multivolume books, anthologies, and specialized encyclopedias:

Berg, Rebecca. "Walter Mosley 1952- ." *American Writers*. Ed. Jay Parini. Supp. 13. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2003. Print.

UNSIGNED articles in multivolume books, anthologies, and specialized encyclopedias:

"Chabon, Michael 1963- ." *Contemporary Authors*. Ed. Scot Peacock. New Revision Series, Vol. 138. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2005. Print.

"Churchill, Winston." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. 2nd ed., Vol. 4. Detroit: Gale, 1998. Print.

ENCYCLOPEDIA:

Author's last name, author's first name, "Title of the article." *Title of the encyclopedia*. Edition or copyright date. Print.

Examples:

Warren, Ruth. "Egypt." *The New Book of Knowledge*. 1998 ed. Print.

"Semiconductor." *Encyclopedia America*. 1996 ed. Print.

VIDEO, MOVIE, DVD, FILMSTRIP:

Title of presentation. Director's name. Name(s) of major actors and actresses (if given). Name of production company, copyright date.

Examples:

The Golden Honeymoon. Dir. Noel Black. James Whitmore, Theresa Wright. Monterey Home Video, 1980.

Fight Club. Dir. David Fincher. Helena Bonham Carter, Edward Norton, Brad Pitt. 20th Century Fox, 2000.

WORKS CITED – MLA STYLE CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Note: This is a short list of common works used for research.

Information from the web comes from a variety of sources and each has its own citation format. *The web site you use should contain a majority of these essential elements.* If you can not locate the key elements you should immediately question the value of the information. Always evaluate the web site for accuracy, authorship and content.

ARTICLE FROM DATABASE:

Author's name (if given). "Title of the Article." *Original Source of Article* Date published (day, month,

year): page number (if given). *Name of Database.* Publisher or sponsor of the database.

Medium of publication (Web). Date of access. <URL of database homepage/>.

Example:

Bonnet, Marie. "Society vs. The Individual in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*." *DISCovering Authors*

2003. *Discovering Collection.* Gale. Web. 16 Jun. 2009. < <http://find.galegroup.com/>>.

NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE OR JOURNAL ARTICLE IN DATABASE:

Author's name (if given). "Title of the Article." *Original Source of Article* Date published: page number

(if given). *Name of Database.* Publisher or sponsor of the database. Medium of publication

(Web). Date of access. <URL of database homepage/>.

Examples:

Brody, Jane E. "Weight-Loss Guides Without Gimmicks." *The New York Times* 23 Dec. 2008: D7.

eLibrary. ProQuest LLC. Web. 16 Jun. 2009. <<http://elibrary.bigchalk.com/>>.

Marder, Murrey. "U.S. Destroyer Fights off 3 PT-Boats in Attack Off Coast of North Viet-Nam." *The*

Washington Post 3 Aug.1964: 2. *Historical Newspapers.* ProQuest LLC. Web. 16 Jun. 2009.

<<http://hn.bigchalk.com/>>.

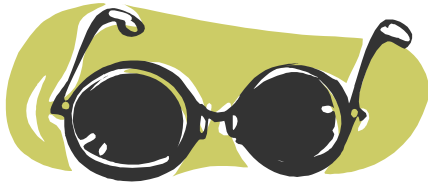
INTERNET SITE:

Author's name (if given). "Title of web page." *Title of the website.* Publisher or sponsor of website (if

given), Date. Medium of publication (Web). Date of access. <URL>.

Example:

Friedland, Lois. "Top 10 Natural and Wildlife Adventure Travel Trips." *About.com*. New York Times Company, 22 Sept. 2008. Web. 16 Jun. 2009. <<http://adventuretravel.about.com/b/2008/01/29/10-great-nature-and-wildlife-adventure-travel-trips.htm>>.



Things to look for! Always remember to evaluate the web site. .EDU= from an educational setting, but beware! Many universities and colleges provide students space to publish on the web. However, simply having an extension (.EDU) does not make the information legitimate. It could be published by a student, professor or staff member of the university or college.



HELPFUL TIP! The information about the author, year of publication, etc. is typically located at the bottom of the web page.

If you are having difficulty locating information for the citation, try tracing the website back to its origin. Simply delete sections of the URL or web address until you locate the owner, writer, or author of the webpage. If that does not work, try using www.easywhois.com to find out who the author is.

NOTE!: If you are unable to find this information, it is likely that the website is NOT authoritative, current, or accurate and therefore should NOT be used!