

MLA Style

Parenthetical Documentation and Bibliographic Form

There are many different style manuals. Always check with your instructor or advisor to find out which manual is best. The information and examples below are taken from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed., 2003. For further information, copies of the *Handbook* may be viewed in Central Reference, or consult the *MLA Style* web site at: <http://www.mla.org/>.

Parenthetical documentation (citing references within the text of your paper) requires you to list, at least, the author's last name and the page reference(s) within parentheses next to your use of the author's words, facts, or ideas. This documentation is keyed to your bibliography which fully identifies the works cited in your paper. The bibliography, with the heading **Works Cited** is arranged alphabetically by author's last name, is double-spaced both between and within entries, and begins on a separate page following the text of your paper.

A. Sample Bibliography Entries

Book -- one author

Kenyon, Jane. *Otherwise: New and Selected Poems*. Saint Paul: Graywolf Press, 1996.

Book -- two or more authors

Sarver, Linda, and Tom Markus. *A Novel Approach to Theatre: From Adams to Zola*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1997.

[Note: include the state's abbreviation only when the city of publication is relatively unknown. Major cities like New York, Los Angeles, or Boston should **not** have state information.]

E-book

Sarver, Linda, and Tom Markus. *A Novel Approach to Theatre: From Adams to Zola*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1997. 18 December, 2000 <<http://www.netlibrary.com>>.

[Note: publication information is followed by date the site was accessed.]

Multi-volume work -- more than three authors / editors

Pederson, Lee et al., eds. *Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States*. 7 vols. Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 1986.

Edited book

Shakespeare, William. *King Lear*. Ed. Edward G. Quinn. New York: Crowell, 1970.

Poem

Kenyon, Jane. "Man Eating." *Otherwise: New and Selected Poems*. Saint Paul: Graywolf Press, 1996.

Chapter in a book

Goldberg, Natalie. "More About Mondays." *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*. Boston: Shambhala, 1986.

Entry in a reference work

"Noon." *Oxford English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. 1989.

[Note: for extremely familiar reference works, include edition information, but omit full publication information. For less familiar works, include full publication information. When in doubt, include full publication information.]

Work in an anthology

Shakespeare, William. "Othello." *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*. Ed. David Bevington. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman, 1980.

Review

Pollak, Vivian R. Rev. of *The Poems of Emily Dickinson*, ed. R.W. Franklin. *American Literature* 72 (2000): 632-33.

Journal article

Henderson, Heather. "Building Fences: An Interview with Mary Alice and James Earl Jones." *Theater* 16 (1985): 67-70.

Online journal article

Kushner, Tony. "Notes about Political Theater." *Kenyon Review* 19 (1997): 19-34. 18 December, 2000

<<http://search.epnet.com>>.

Newspaper article

Wiener, Julie. "Author Interview - Samuel Freedman." *Jerusalem Post* 22 Sep. 2000, daily ed.: 13B.

Specific web page article without an author

Making of America: About. Cornell University Library. 18 December, 2000 <<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/about.html>>.

Specific web page article with an author

McChesney, Robert W. "On Media and the Election." *Commondreams.org*. 11 November, 2004

<<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1109-31.htm>>.

B. Parenthetical Documentation

- *Two or more authors, direct quotation*: "Historical novels "aren't "brain busters" of a serious scholarly nature, but novels whose authors tell us the truth about today by setting their stories in earlier times" (Sarver and Markus 63).
- *One author, not a direct quotation*: Natalie Goldberg reminds us that "art is the act of nonaggression," and that writing in America is not about making profits (119-20).
- *Web page*: Funding for the "Making of America" project was provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (*Making*, par. 1).
- *Entry in a reference work*: Surprisingly enough, "noon" does not necessarily refer to 12:00 PM ("Noon"). [Note: page numbers from a reference work arranged alphabetically are unnecessary.]
- *Multi-volume work*: Usage of specific words was recorded in four social categories (Pederson et al. 7: xv).
- *Poem*: "...But what about / this man, so completely present / to the little carton..." (Kenyon 5).