

# Citations: MLA (Modern Language Association)

## What do I Need to Cite?

Any source of intellectual property that serves to inform, inspire, or contribute to your own product needs to be acknowledged. Whose expressions, ideas, research, conclusions, or creative content is it? When it isn't yours, you need to cite your source. This includes:

- All quotations (wording taken directly from another source)
- All paraphrased ideas
- Facts that are not common knowledge—if you can find it on multiple easily found internet sources (or on Wikipedia), it is probably common knowledge
- All pictures, graphics, poems, or other pieces of art that you did not create yourself

## Internet Sources:

-Many internet sources are not reliable or credible for academic research. If you cannot fulfill most of the criteria needed for a citation for an internet source (especially things such as author and date), the source is probably not credible. Try to find the site where the source (picture, article etc.) would have originated (publication website, museum, etc.).

## Parenthetical Citations

-All citations are made in text, at the end of the sentence in which the quotation or paraphrase appears. They are placed before the period, but outside the quotation marks:

Once back to the safety of the boast, and "when [they ] were offshore but still within earshot" (Homer 9.473).

-When the author's name is referred to in the sentence, the citation does not need to include the author's name:

Homer wrote, "When [they] were offshore but still within earshot" (9.473).

-When there is no known author, replace the author's name with an abbreviated version of the title:

"We may know that Odysseus will return, but Odysseus and the other characters in the story certainly do not" ("Omens in the Odyssey" 12).

## Works Cited Entries

All entries should be double spaced, not numbered, and tabbed (except the first line). They should be arranged in alphabetical order.

### *Book (with translator):*

Author. Title. Trans. Name. City, State of publication: Publication Company, date.

Lucan. Pharsalia. Trans. Jane Wilson Joyce. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1993.

### *Journal/Newspaper Article:*

Author. "Title." Periodical. Date: page number.

Brubaker, Bill. "New Health Center Targets County's Uninsured Patients." Washington Post 24 May 2007: 24-26.

### *Image*

Artist. Title. Museum, city. Access date <original site URL>.

da Vinci, Leonardo. Mona Lisa. 1503-1505. Louvre, Paris. 21 May 2008 <www.louvre.fr/>.

### *Internet Source from Online Database:*

Author. "Title of article." Periodical Date of publication. Page number. Database. Date of access. <URL>.

Palmer, Thelma. "Saturday Odyssey." The English Journal May 1977: 59. JSTOR. 18 Jan 2009 <www.jstor.org>.

## Revision Checklist:

\_\_\_ Are all quotes or borrowed ideas cited?

\_\_\_ Are all citations included in a Works Cited page?

\_\_\_ Are all internet sources credible?

\_\_\_ Is your Works Cited page formatted correctly? (Double spaced, tabbed, not numbered, alphabetized)

\*\*For more scenarios, examples, and APA style please visit the Library's website ("Research Help").