

## -MLA Notes on Creating a Works Cited Page- MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2009

### 1. Parenthetical Referencing

Always use parenthetical referencing when incorporating citations or paraphrasing. Place the reference at the end of the sentence in parentheses, followed by a period: (Quiñonez).

The rule to remember is this: the word in the parentheses *must* correspond with the alphabetical reference on your works cited page.

Here are some examples of parenthetical referencing:

#### Printed Textbooks/ Novels

-in a research paper where multiple sources are cited, use the author's last name, followed by the page number: (Shelley, 57).

\*However, MLA currently recommends that you provide information *in addition* to page numbers so readers using different editions can locate the passage you are citing. After the page number, add a semicolon and use lowercase abbreviations, such as pt. and ch. (Conrad, 47; ch. 2).

#### Verse Plays & Poems

-for verse plays and poems, cite by *appropriate abbreviations in italics*, followed by divisions and lines, using periods between the numbered divisions: (*Pl.* 6. 871-872)

\*remember, if you use abbreviations, you should have notified the reader in advance of the abbreviation you will use. See *Abbreviations* below.

#### Websites

-if a website is used and no page number is available, use the author's last name only: (Bonnet)

#### Anonymous Authors

-cite works by anonymous authors according to the first main word in the title.

("Talk") would be fine as a parenthetical reference for the article listed below:  
"The Talk of the Town." *The New Yorker* 16 July 1984: 23. Print.

#### Films

-again, the word in parentheses should correspond with the main word used to alphabetize the work on your works cited page.

-use the main title word in italics if you are referencing the film:

(*Matrix*)

-use the director if you are citing the director or another person associated with the film:

(Watchowski)

## 2. Abbreviations (7.7)

For well-known works of classic literature, you may use appropriate abbreviations in italics. Abbreviation in documentation may be efficient when discussing multiple works by the same author or in discussion of multiple works where abbreviation makes for more concise parenthetical documentation.

If you use abbreviations, introduce the abbreviation in parentheses immediately *after* the first full use of the title in the text: “In John Milton’s *Paradise Lost (Pl.)*, Milton...”

Below is a partial list of abbreviations for literary works studied during CP-IV British Lit.

*Beowulf: Beo.*

*Canterbury Tales: CT*

*Prologue: GP*

*Knight’s Tale: KnT*

*Pardoner’s Tale: PardT*

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: SGGK*

*Hamlet: Ham.*

*Dante’s Inferno: Inf.*

*Milton’s Paradise Lost: PL*

According to the MLA Handbook, if your work is not on the list above, “you may devise simple, unambiguous abbreviations of your own.”

### 3. Making a Works Cited Page

Cite sources alphabetically by author

- cite works by anonymous authors alphabetically by the first *main* word in the title.
- indent the second line of each source by 5 spaces.

-Sparknotes is *not* a source!

Why? Good academic sources are subject to open review and critique.

-wikipedia is *not* a source!

Why? Good academic sources are *authoritative*; they are generated by those with expertise necessary to speak authoritatively on the subject.

Below are some sample citations:

#### Website

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Webpage Title*. Year of publication. Web. Date of your site visit.

#### Example

Bonnet, James. "Exploring the Dark Side: The Anti-Hero's Journey". *The Writer's Store*. 2010. Web. 10 February 2010.

**Note:** you do *not* have to include the URL if your website can easily be traced by its title and the information provided in your documentation. MLA recommends you do *not* include the full URL if it is overly lengthy.

#### A literary work within another text or reference work

Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Literary Work*. *Title of Reference Book*.

Place of Publication: Publisher, Print. Date of Publication.

#### Example

Milton, John. *Paradise Lost*. *Elements of Literature, Sixth Course, Literature of Britain with World Classics*. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Print. 2000

**Note:** the title of the literary work should be in *italics* if it is a longer verse narrative poem, play or novel, in quotation marks if it is a poem or short story.

#### An article within another text or reference work

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Reference Book*. Place of

Publication: Publisher, Print. Date of Publication.

#### Example

Leeming, David. "The Anglo-Saxons." *Elements of Literature, Sixth Course, Literature of Britain with World Classics*. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Print. 2000

**An article or introduction printed within a critical edition of a literary work**

Author's Last name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Literary Work*. Publisher.

Editor. Print. Year of Publication.

**Example**

Flesch, William. "The Majesty of Darkness: Idol and Image in Milton." *Paradise Lost, a Norton Critical Edition*. W.W. Norton and Company. Ed. Gordon Tesky. Print. 2006

**Anonymous author**

-cite works by anonymous authors alphabetically according to the first *main* word in the title, and ignore indefinite articles like *the, an, a*. The article below would be listed under "T" because of the word *Talk*.

**Example**

"The Talk of the Town." *The New Yorker* 16 July 1984: 23. Print.

**An anonymous article within another text or reference work**

"Haile Selassie I." *Encyclopedia of World Biography, Second Edition, Volume 18*.

Detroit, MI. Gale Research Group. Print. 1998.

**A literary work or reference book such as a biography or autobiography**

Melville, Herman, *Moby Dick*, New York, Barnes & Noble Classics, Print, 1993

**A film**

*Title of Film*. Dir. Director's First and Last name. Perf. Main performer(s) first and last names. Studio. Year of Release. Film.

**Example**

*Inherit the Wind*. Dir. Stanley Kramer. Perf. Spencer Tracy and Frederic March.

UnitedArtists, 1960. Film.

**Note:** If it's the director or another individual associated with the film that you want to cite, start the entry with that person's name--for example: Kramer, Stanley, dir.

**A television episode**

"Seeds of Destruction." *Slavery and the Making of America*. Prod. Clara Gazit. PBS.

WNET, New York, 16 Feb. 2006. Television.

## Works Cited

- Bonnet, James. "Exploring the Dark Side: The Anti-Hero's Journey". *The Writer's Store*. 2010. Web. 10 February 2010.
- Flesch, William. "The Majesty of Darkness: Idol and Image in Milton." *Paradise Lost, a Norton Critical Edition*. W.W. Norton and Company. Ed. Gordon Tesky. Print. 2006
- "Haile Selassie I." *Encyclopedia of World Biography, Second Edition, Volume 18*. Detroit, MI. Gale Research Group. Print. 1998.
- Leeming, David. "The Anglo-Saxons." *Elements of Literature, Sixth Course, Literature of Britain with World Classics*. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Print. 2000
- Melville, Herman, *Moby Dick*, New York, Barnes & Noble Classics, Print, 1993
- Milton, John. *Paradise Lost. Elements of Literature, Sixth Course, Literature of Britain with World Classics*. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Print. 2000
- Schindler's List*. Dir. Steven Spielberg. Perf. Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes. Universal Pictures. 1993. Film.
- "Seeds of Destruction." *Slavery and the Making of America*. Prod. Clara Gazit. PBS. WNET, New York, 16 Feb. 2006. Television.
- "The Zenith on the Horizon." *The New Yorker* 16 July 1984. Print.

Note that this page is:

- organized alphabetically by
- author's last name or,
- if the author is anonymous or unknown, by the first key word in the title
- second line is indented if the information continues to two lines.
- article titles are in parentheses
- books or website titles are in *italics*.
- website URLs are not included *if* the website can be easily traced by the information you provide.