

## Citation Using the M.L.A. Format 8th edition Materials updated Mar. 2020

The MLA (Modern Languages Association) format is used by Humanities courses such as English and History.

*MLA Handbook: Eighth Edition.* Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

Additional examples and clarifications are from the Purdue website

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html)

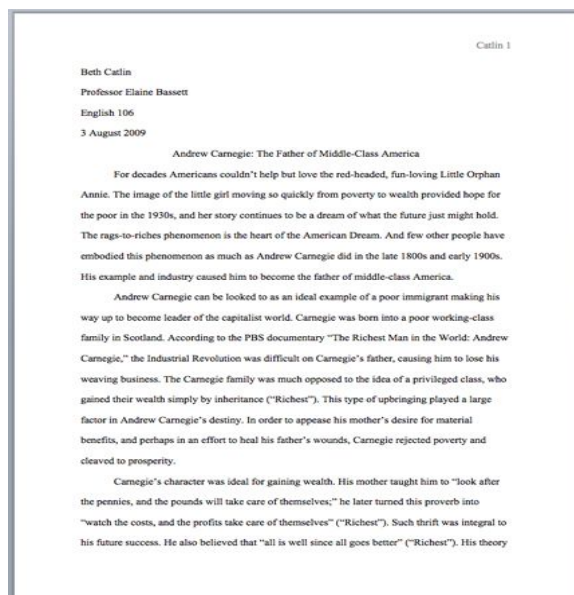
"MLA Formatting and Style Guide." *The Purdue OWL*, Purdue U Writing Lab. Accessed

10 Mar. 2020

### Formatting Your Essay

MLA does not require a title page. Instead, the pertinent information about your essay is included at the top of the first page. However, we advise that you check with your teacher whether or not they want a cover page and if so, ask for instructions.

- In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text.
- Double space again and center the title. Do not underline, italicize, or place your title in quotation marks. Write the title in Title Case (standard capitalization), not in all capital letters (pull down the normal text menu and Title is the next choice)
- Use quotation marks and/or italics when referring to other works in your title. For example: Imperialism in *Heart of Darkness*; Perspective in "A Photograph of Me"
- Double space between the title and the first line of the text.
- Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number. Number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: Your instructor may ask that you omit the last name/page number header on your first page).



## General Rules for Works Cited page

- begin your Works Cited on a new page; number each page in the upper right-hand corner; use the title Works Cited
- the list is **alphabetical** by author's last name, or first word of title if there is no author
- if there is more than one work by the same author, order the entries alphabetically by title (for example, Atwood's *Cat's Eye* would be listed before *Edible Woman*).
- titles are **italicized** and capitalized
- The Works Cited must be **double spaced** within and between the citation
- **second and subsequent lines** of each entry are **indented** five spaces from the left margin
- to cite two or more works by the same author, give the name in the first entry only. Thereafter, in place of the name, type three hyphens (—), followed by a period and the title. If the person named edited, translated, or compiled the work, place a comma (not a period) after the three hyphens and write the appropriate abbreviation (ed., trans., or comp.) before giving the title
- the term container recognizes the mobile nature of sources. If a source is original to a print document but downloaded from an online source, the citation should reflect both sources.
- the URL for online sources must be provided
- MLA style requires a sponsor or publisher for most online sources; if there is not one, use the abbreviation N.p. (for no publisher) in the sponsor position
- If, in an online source there is no date or publication or update, use n.d. (for no date) after the sponsor

## General Rules for Parenthetical Documentation (In-text Citations)

- references in the text of the essay must point to **specific sources** in the Works Cited
- the information in the text must **match** the corresponding information in the entries in your list of **Works Cited**
- for a typical Works Cited list entry which begins with the name of the author (or translator, editor, or narrator) the parenthetical reference begins with the same name
- when the list contains only **one work** by the author cited, you need give **only the author's last name** to identify the work: (Patterson pp.183-85)
- if your list contains **more than one author with the same last name**, add the **first initial** (A. Patt pp. 183-85) and (L. Patt p.230), or if the initial is shared, the full first name
- if there are **two** authors, give the **last name of each person** listed (Rabkin, Greenberg, and Lander)
- if the work has **more than three authors**, provide the **first author's last name, plus et al.** which is Latin for "and others" (Lauter et al. pp. 2601-09)
- if there is no author and the work therefore is listed by **title**, use the **title, shortened** or in full ("Finding Ophelia" pp. 219)
- if **two or more anonymous works have the same title**, add a **publication fact such as a date that distinguishes the works** ("Finding Ophelia" 1999, p. 219)
- if the list contains **more than one entry by an author**, add the **cited title**, shortened or in full, after the author's last name (Frye, *Anatomy* 237)

See further down on these pages for full examples of embedded citations

## Principles of a Works Cited

There are nine possible core elements of any entry a Works Cited. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown unless it is the final element, which should end with a period. An explanation of each of the elements will be provided.

<p><b>1. Author.</b> Last name, First name.</p>
<p><b>2. Title of Source.</b> Titles are written in full, exactly as they are found in the source. A title is <i>italicized</i> when the source is self-contained or independent (a book, website, tv. show, movie, etc.) If the title is that of an article in a magazine, chapter in a book, or a poem or short story, quotation marks are used, NOT italics</p>
<p><b>3. Title of Container #1, Title of Container 2.</b> If you are using an online resource, chances are it was published in print first. Therefore, you will have two containers. The first will be the original publication and the second will be the online “container” where you found it. Both container titles are italicized.</p>
<p><b>4. Other contributors (editor, translator, etc.),</b></p>
<p><b>5. Version,</b></p>
<p><b>6. Number,</b></p>
<p><b>7. Publisher,</b></p>
<p><b>8. Publication date, (as precise as is provided)</b></p>
<p><b>9. Location. (if a print source, page number(s); online, the url)</b></p>

TYPE OF SOURCE	PARENTHETICAL REFERENCE
<p><b>A work by one author, in this case a book</b></p> <p>Author’s last name, First name. <i>Title of Book</i>. Publisher, date, page numbers (if applicable)</p> <p>Brown, Elizabeth. <i>Comedy and the Middlebrow Novel</i>. Pickering and Chatto, 2013, p. 9.</p>	(Brown 9)
<p><b>A work with an author and an editor, in this case a book</b></p> <p>Author’s last name, First name. <i>Title of Work</i>, edited by First Name Last Name. Publisher, date, page numbers (if applicable).</p> <p>Meadows, David Henry. <i>Thinking in Systems: A Primer</i>, edited by Daniel Wright. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008, pp.49-50.</p>	(Meadows 49)

### A work by two authors, in this case a journal found online

Author's last name, First Name, and Author's First Name and Last Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, version / number, Publisher, date, page numbers, url. Date accessed (if your instructor requires this)

Soto, Connie and Ophelia John. "The Next Big Five Inventory (BFI-2): Developing and Assessing a Hierarchical Model with 15 Facets to Enhance Bandwidth, Fidelity and Predictive Power." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, vol. 113, no. 1, 2017, pp 117-143,  
[Journal of Personality and Social Psychology | RG Journal Impact Rankings 2018 and 2019.](#)

(Soto and John 122)

### A work by more than three authors

If there are three or more authors, list only the name of the first author and use the Latin et al. (and others)

Nguyen, Terrance et al. "Metamotivational Knowledge of the Role of High-level and Low-level Construal in Goal-relevant Task Performance." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, vol. 117, no. 5, 2019, pp.879-899,  
[Journal of Personality and Social Psychology | RG Journal Impact Rankings 2018 and 2019.](#)

(Nguyen et al. 888)

### A work by a corporate author

Authors do not have to be individual persons. A work may be created by a corporate author--an institution, an association, a government agency, or another kind of organization.

United Nations. "Growing at a Slower Pace: World Population is Expected to Reach 9.7 Billion in 2050 and Could Peak at Nearly 11 Billion around 2100." *United Nations-Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. United Nations, 17 June 2019,  
[www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/world-population-prospects-2](http://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/world-population-prospects-2).

(United Nations)

### A Republished book, ebook or audiobook

For books that originally appeared at an earlier date and that have been **republished** at a later one, insert the original publication date before the publication information.

Freud, Sigmund. *The Interpretation of Dreams: The Complete and Definitive Text*. 1900.  
Edited and translated by John Stachey. Basic Books, 2010, pp.45-50.

(Freud, 46)

To cite an **audiobook**, include the book's author and title along with the publication details for the audiobook version. If noteworthy or relevant, list the narrator in the Other Contributors slot. Give the publisher of the audiobook in the Publisher slot. The medium of publication can be listed as a final entry.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Narrated by Claire Danes et al., Audible, 2017. Audiobook.

(Atwood)

If you downloaded the audiobook to a device, don't include the Web site from which you downloaded it. (In the example above, Audible is included as the publisher of the audiobook, not as its seller or distributor.)

To cite an **ebook**, the term ebook goes in the version "slot" of the MLA template.

Silva, Paul J. *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*. E-book, American Psychological Association, 2007.

(Sillva)

If you know the type of e-book you used (Kindle, Kobo, EPUB) use that term rather than "e-book."

Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*. Translated by W. K. Marriott, Kindle ed., Library of Alexandria, 2018.

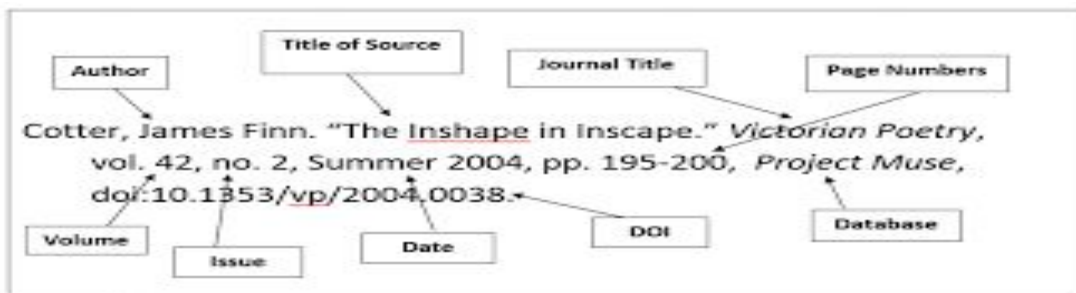
(Machiavelli)

### A work in an anthology, collection or reference, or a chapter in a work

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.

(Harris 27)

### Finding the reference elements for a Journal or Periodical



(guides.Indilibrary.org)

**A Journal or Periodical** (both are academic sources; a journal is published in regular intervals, a periodical is published periodically). The location of a journal or periodical found online is typically a url or a doi (digital online indicator), but if page numbers are provided, they should also be included as part of the location.

Berman, Russell. "The Necessity of Language Learning." *ADFL Bulletin*, vol. 43, no. 2, 2015, pp. 11-14, doi:10.1632/adfl.43.2.11.

(Russell 14-15)

A journal or periodical found through a **database** will have two containers-the journal or periodical title and the title of the database.

Lawrence, Kathleen. "Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive." *Journal of American History*, vol. 105, no. 1, June 2018, pp. 240–242. EBSCOhost, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=khh&A&site=ehost-live](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=khh&A&site=ehost-live).

(Lawrence 241)

### An Online Encyclopedia

Author if provided. "Name of Article," *Title of Encyclopedia*. Publisher, publication date, url. Provide the date of access if your instructor requires it.

"Coronavirus." *Britannica School*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 16 Mar. 2020.

[school.eb.com/levels/high/article/coronavirus/487680](https://school.eb.com/levels/high/article/coronavirus/487680). Accessed 29 Mar. 2020.

("Coronavirus")

### A Magazine Article

Author if provided. "Name of Article." *Title of Magazine*. Version, number, publisher, publication date, page numbers (if applicable).

Lorinc, John. "Wind Power for Everyman." *Canadian Geographic*, vol. 129, no. 3, June 2009, pp. 40–42.

(Lorinc 41)

If the magazine is found through a database, the second container information needs to be included:

Lorinc, John. "Wind Power for Everyman." *Canadian Geographic*, vol. 129, no. 3, June 2009, pp. 40–42. EBSCOhost, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rc40943&site=ehost-live](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rc40943&site=ehost-live).

(Lorinc 41)

### A Newspaper article (online)

Author if provided. "Title of Article." Title of website, Name of Newspaper, Date of Publication, URL. Accessed date. Note that the date order is day Month year

Marshall, Alexi and Alexandra Alter. "Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo Share Booker Prize." *Hamilton Spectator, The*, 16 Oct. 2019, <https://www.thespec.com/whatson-authors-margaret-atwood-and-bernardine-evaristo-win2019-booker-prize/>. Accessed 28 Mar. 2020.

(Marshall and Alter)

### Website without an author

“Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview.” *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014,

[www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview](http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview).

(“Athlete’s Foot”)

**Website with an author** (because the website is one that is updated and changed regularly the access date has been included)

Lundman, Susan. “How to Make Vegetarian Chili.” *eHow*,

[www.ehow.com/how\\_10727\\_make-vegetarian-chili.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html). Accessed 6 July 2015.

(Lundman)

### A Blog posting

Provide the author’s name, the title of the posting in quotation marks, the Web site name in italics, the publisher, and the posting date. Follow with the medium of publication and the date of access. Include screen names as author names when the author name is not known. If both names are not known, place the author’s name in brackets. Remember if the publisher of the site is unknown, use the abbreviation n.p.

Salmar1515 [Sal Hernandez]. “Re: Best Strategy: Fenced Pastures vs.

Max. Number of Rooms?” *BoardGameGeek*. BoardGameGeek,

29 Sept. 2013. Web. 5 Aug. 2014.

(Hernandez)

### A Film or Video

List films by their title. Include the name of the director, the film studio or distributor, and the release year. If relevant, list performer names after the director's name.

*Speed Racer*. Directed by Lana Wachowski and Lilly Wachowski, performances by Emile

Hirsch, Nicholas Elia, Susan Sarandon, Ariel Winter, and John Goodman, Warner

Brothers, 2008.

(*Speed Racer*)

If your essay focuses on a performer or director, begin the citation with the name of the desired performer or director, followed by the appropriate title for that person.

Lucas, George, director. *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*. Twentieth Century Fox,

1977.

(Lucas)

### A Youtube Video or other online video

Provide as many core elements as provided. Include as much information as is necessary to help readers understand the type of source. If the author's name is the same as the uploader, only cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploader, cite the author's name before the title.

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E).

(McGonigal)

### Music

Music is cited based on the container you accessed the music from. Generally, citations begin with the artist's name. Song titles are enclosed in quotation marks and album titles are in italics. Provide the name of the recording manufacturer followed by the publication date. If information such as record label or name of album is unavailable from your source, do not list that information.

#### Spotify

Rae Morris. "Skin." *Cold*, Atlantic Records, 2014. *Spotify*,  
[open.spotify.com/track/0OPES3Tw5r86O6fudK8gxi](https://open.spotify.com/track/0OPES3Tw5r86O6fudK8gxi).

(Rae Morris)

#### Online Album

Beyoncé. "Pray You Catch Me." *Lemonade*, Parkwood Entertainment, 2016,  
[www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/](http://www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/).

(Beyoncé)

#### CD

The Mamas and the Papas. *Gold*. Comp. Andy McKaie. Geffen. 2005.  
CD.

(The Mamas and the Papas)



## Photographs, Art, Sculpture, etc.

Provide the artist's name, *the work of art*, the date of creation, the institution and city where the work is housed. Follow this part of the entry with the *name of the website*, the medium of publication, and the date of access.

### ***A Work of Visual Art from a museum or gallery***

To cite a painting, lithograph, sculpture, or similar work, state the artist's name first, when available. In general, italicize the title and then list the date of composition (if unknown, write N.d.). Indicate the medium, name the institution that houses the work, and the city where it is located.

Rembrandt Harmensz Hellman. *Aristotle with a Bust of Homer*. 1653.

Oil on canvas. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

(Rembrandt)

### **A Piece of Artwork viewed online**

If you saw the artwork on the museum's website, treat the name of the website as the container and include the website's publisher and the URL at the end of the citation. You don't have to include publisher information if it is the same as the name of the website. A period is the punctuation used after the date instead of a comma because the date refers to when the artwork was created, not its publication on the website. MLA format considers it an "optional element" and a period is used.

Goya, Francisco. *The Family of Charles IV*. 1800. *Museo del Prado*,

[museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-work/the-family-](https://museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-work/the-family-of-carlos-iv/f47898fc-aa1c-48f6-a779-71759e417e74)

[of-carlos-iv/f47898fc-aa1c-48f6-a779-71759e417e74](https://museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-work/the-family-of-carlos-iv/f47898fc-aa1c-48f6-a779-71759e417e74).

(Goya)

### **A Photograph**

The photographer is the author. Enclose the name or description of the photograph in quotation marks. Include the container(s), date, URL and date accessed.

Beletsky, Yuri. "Three Planets Dance over La Silla." *European Southern Observatory*, 3

June 2013, <https://www.eso.org/public/images/potw1322a/>. Accessed 22 Mar.

2019.

(Beletsky)

## Works Cited Examples

"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014,

[www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview](http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview).

Beletsky, Yuri. "Three Planets Dance over La Silla." *European Southern Observatory*, 3

June 2013, <https://www.eso.org/public/images/potw1322a/>. Accessed 22 Mar.

2019.

Beyoncé. "Pray You Catch Me." *Lemonade*, Parkwood Entertainment, 2016,

[www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/](http://www.beyonce.com/album/lemonade-visual-album/).

"Coronavirus." *Britannica School*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 16 Mar. 2020.

[school.eb.com/levels/high/article/coronavirus/487680](http://school.eb.com/levels/high/article/coronavirus/487680). Accessed 29 Mar. 2020.

Lucas, George, director. *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*. Twentieth Century Fox,

1977.

Marshall, Alexi and Alexandra Alter. "Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo

Share Booker Prize." *Hamilton Spectator, The*, 16 Oct. 2019,

<https://www.thespec.com/whatson-authors-margaret-atwood-and-bernardine-evaristo-win2019-booker-prize/>. Accessed 28 Mar. 2020.

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3

July 2012, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E).

Meadows, David Henry. *Thinking in Systems: A Primer*, edited by Daniel Wright.

Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008, pp.49-50.

Silva, Paul J. *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*.

E-book, American Psychological Association, 2007.

## Embedded (Parenthetical) Citations and How to Write Them!

In order to avoid plagiarism, credit must be provided for all outside sources used in creating your essay. This includes:

- when you paraphrase (put in your own words) facts and ideas of others
- when you summarize facts or another person's argument or idea
- when you directly quote the words of others

### ***MLA style:***

The author's last name and the page number of the source of the quotation, idea, or paraphrase, must appear in the text of the essay. A complete reference must be listed on the Works Cited page. One can introduce the author's name as part of the sentence in the essay or in parentheses after the quotation, but the page number must always be in parentheses. Note that the final punctuation always goes after the last parenthesis when the quotation is within the text of the essay.

### **Examples:**

#### **Direct Quotation-One Author**

For soldiers in World War I, work did not end when darkness fell. Instead, "troops in the line would spend much of their night on guard, repairing wire or trenches, patrolling or carrying up the wire, duckboards and sandbags. . ." (Holmes 123-124).

Ondaatje writes, "In the tunnel under Lake Ontario two men shake hands on an incline of mud. Beside them a pickaxe and a lamp, their dirt-streaked faces pivoting to look towards the camera" (105).

#### **Paraphrase of Author's idea-One Author**

The historian Richard Holmes observes that it is the soldier's duty to use force that distinguishes him from the average civilian (31).

## Direct Quotation- if you are using more than one work by the same author in your essay

By using a shortened version of the title, the writer lets the reader know which source is being used.

“They stood under the hot pipes, not noticeably changing for two or three minutes—as if, like an actress unable to return to the real world from a role, they would be forever contained in that livid colour, only their brains free of it” (Ondaatje, *Lion* 132).

### Direct Quotation: Poetry

If you quote part or all of a single line of verse that does not require special emphasis, put it in quotation marks within your text. You may also incorporate two or three lines using this format, using a slash with a space on each side (/) to separate them.

Thomas’ unique use of language is seen in the first lines of “Fern Hill” when he writes, “Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs / About the lilting house and happy as the grass was green,” (1).

### For a source with no known Author

When a source has no known author, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name. Place the title in quotation marks if it’s a short work (such as an article) or italicize it if it’s a longer work such as a play, book or website.

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily accessible climate data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change...” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).

The abbreviated title refers the reader to the Works Cited and the signal phrase makes it easy to find. The Works Cited entry for this example would appear as follows:

“The Impact of Global Warming in North America.” *Global Warming: Early Signs*.

1999. Web. 23 Mar. 2013.

## Long Quotations

Quotations longer than four lines must be set off from the text of the essay by beginning a new line, indenting the same space as to start a new paragraph, and typing it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks. Usually a colon is used to introduce the quotation, but sometimes other punctuation is appropriate.

When Frankenstein's creation comes to life, the doctor quickly realizes what he has done:

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch  
whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form? His limbs  
were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful—Great  
God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath;  
his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but  
these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that  
seemed almost the same colour as the dun white sockets in which they were set,  
his shrivelled complexion, and straight black lips. (Shelley 85)

## Direct Quotations- Plays

When quoting from one of Shakespeare's plays, the act, scene and line numbers must be placed in parentheses after the quotation. Periods are used to separate each part of the reference.

In Shakespeare's day when Juliet asked, "O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" (2.2.33) she is not asking where he is, but why must he be a Montague, and an enemy of her family.

If the quotation is three lines or less, separate each line with a "/" leaving a space on either side.

In *Hamlet*, Claudius alludes to the story of Cain and Abel when describing his crime: "It hath the primal eldest curse upon't, / A brother's murder" (3.3.37–38).

## Works of Drama other than Shakespeare:

The page number, act, and scene (if any) are placed in parentheses. The playwright's name must be cited if it is not part of the quotation's introduction.

In *Death of a Salesman*, Linda defends Willie Loman by stating, "He's not the finest character that ever lived. But he's a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him." (Miller 56; act 1)

## Quoting Dialogue from a Dramatic work

If you quote dialogue between two or more characters in a play, set the quotation off from your text. Begin each part of the dialogue with the character's name indented and written all in capital letters. Follow the name with a period, and start the quotation. Indent all subsequent lines in that character's speech three spaces. When the speaker changes, indent and continue with the same pattern. Double space the dialogue.

When Romeo encounters Paris in the graveyard, he does his best to avoid a fight with the young man who believed he was betrothed to Juliet, but his words merely incense Paris:

ROMEO.                    I beseech thee, youth,

Put not another sin upon my head,

By urging me to fury: O, be gone!

By heaven, I love thee, better than myself;

For I come hither arm'd against myself.

Stay not, be gone; live, and hereafter say

A madman's mercy bade thee run away.

PARIS. I do defy thy conjurations,

And apprehend thee for a felon here. (5.1.64-70)