

**CITING YOUR SOURCES**  
**HUMANITIES (Modern Language Association MLA)**

**PARENTHETIC (IN-TEXT) CITATIONS:**

The general format for noting sources within the body of a research paper is to include the author's last name and the page number of the reference within parentheses at the end of the reference.

The bleakness of puritan New England is perhaps best represented by the contrast between the wild and delicately beautiful rose bush and the prison, described as the "black flower of civilized society" (Hawthorne 46).

If the author's name is included in the body of the text, then the parenthetic reference includes only the page number.

In ***The Scarlet Letter***, Nathaniel Hawthorne paints a dismal, though perhaps not realistic, portrait of the pilgrims dressed in "sad-colored garments" (45)

For Internet sources, use parenthetic (in-text) citations, just as you would for traditional print and non-print sources. Most electronically-accessed work, however, is not paginated. Thus, for most electronic works, you may have only the author's last name.

At least one account of the life of Mary Shelly depicts a child who was "treated as if she were born beneath a lucky star" (Bridges)

Remember that the purpose of the parenthetic citation is to point to the referenced work in the list of Works Cited, and to allow the reader to find the specific location of the reference within the work. Thus, the parenthetic notation should begin with the same information as the reference in the list of works cited.

Whenever possible, you may want to include the information within the body of the text itself to avoid awkwardness. For instance,

The use of contrast, both visual, such as that between the wild and beautiful rose bush and the "black flower of civilized society, the prison" (46) in ***The Scarlet Letter***, and contrasts of mood, such as the contrast between "Jollity and gloom" (115) in the short story "The Maypole of merry Mount," are typical of Nathaniel Hawthorne.

For Internet or other electronic sources without pagination, however, repeat the author's name in parentheses after all direct quotes, even if the name is already included in the text.  
For Example:

K.W. Bridge's investigation of the life of Mary Shelley reveals a child who "was treated as a unique individual" (Bridges). However, Katherine Hill-Miller, on the other hand, presents evidence that Mary Shelley was a tortured individual, subject incestuous advances, and registered to a role of silence.

The parenthetical note is usually placed right after the passage needing documentation, typically at the end of a sentence and inside the final punctuation mark. For block quotes, however, the parenthetical note is placed outside the final punctuation mark.

## PREPARING the LIST of WORKS CITED

- WWW Sites
- Email, Listservs, Newsgroups
- Gopher Sites
- FTP Sites
- Telnet Sites
- MOO, MUD, IRC
- Online Reference Sources/Databases
- Electronic Publications
- Software and Games

Although the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* includes some examples for citing electronic sources, these formats are still tentative. Below are presented the formats included in the MLA Handbook.

## GENERAL FORMAT

As a rule, the second and subsequent lines of a **MLA** citation are indented five spaces under the first line. (Keep in mind that other factors, such as your browser, might affect indents and other formatting issues. For example, depending on where you're reading this, if you count the "spaces" on the screen or try to print the screen out, the indents for the following sample citation might not be exactly five "spaces.")

**MLA**      Author's Lastname, Author's Firstname. "Title of Document."  
            Title of Complete Work (if applicable). Volume, Issue, or other  
            Identifying Number. Document date (if known).  
            Title of the database (underlined). Publication medium (i.e., Online).  
            Name of computer network. Date of access.

**NOTE:** **MLA** says that, as supplementary information, you may want to include the electronic address of the source at the end of the entry, preceded by the word "available."

## WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW) SITES

**MLA:** List the author's name, last name first, the title of the article enclosed in quotation marks, the title of the complete work, underlined, followed by the date of publication. Next list the medium of publication (i.e. Online), the network (i.e. Internet), and the date of access. You may include the electronic address for the source, preceded by the word "available,) the protocol, and a colon, after the date of access

(for example, Available HTTP: <http://www.apocalypse.org/pub/u/lpb/muddex/essay/>).

Burka, Lauren P. "A Hypertext History of Multi-User  
Dimensions." "The MUDdex. 1993. Online. Internet.  
5 Dec. 1994.

## **E-MAIL, LISTSERV, and NEWSGROUP CITATIONS:**

**MLA:** List the author's name, last name first, followed by the subject line of the e-mail, enclosed in quotation marks, the date of the posting, the address of the list to which the post was sent, the name of the network, and the date of access.

Bruckman, Amy S. "MOOSE Crossing Proposal." 20  
Dec. 1994. Online posting. Listserv  
mediamoo@.media.mit.edu. Internet. 20 Dec. 1994.

Seabrook, Richard H.C. "Community and Progress.  
22 Jan. 1994. Online posting. Listserv  
cybermind@jefferson village.edu. Internet.  
22 Jan. 1994

Thompson, Barry. "Virtual Reality." E-mail to the author.  
25 Jan. 1995

## **GOPHER SITES (INFORMATION AVAILABLE VIA GOPHER SEARCH PROTOCOLS):**

**MLA:** List the author's name, last name first (if known), the title of the file, enclosed in quotation marks, and print publication information, if given, the title of the online service, underlined, if applicable, the type of service (i.e. Online), the name of the network, and the date of access.

"The Netoric Project.: Online. Internet. 13 Jan. 1996.

## **FTP (FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL) SITES:**

**MLA:** List the author's name, last name first, if known, the title of the file in quotation marks, followed by any print publication information and/or the date of publication of the file, the name of the online service, if applicable, the type of medium, the name of the network, and the date of access.

Bruckman, Amy. "Approaches to Managing Deviant  
Behavior in Virtual Communities." Apr. 1994  
Online. Internet. 4 Dec. 1994.

## **TELNET SITES (SITES and FILES AVAILABLE VIA the TELNET PROTOCOL):**

**MLA:** List the author's name (if known), the title of the work (if given) enclosed in quotation marks, the title of the complete work and/or the name of the database or service provider, if applicable, underlined, the medium, the name of the network, and the date of access.

Traci (#377). "DaedalusMOO Purpose Statement."  
DaedalusMOO. Online. Internet. 30 Apr. 1996.

## **SYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATIONS (MOOs, MUDs, IRC, ETC.):**

**MLA:** List the name of the speaker or author, last name first, followed by the type of communication (i.e., Personal Interview), and the date of access. For logs of synchronous discussions available through telnet, list the title of the file, enclosed in quotation marks, the name of the online service, the medium, the name of the network, and the date of access.

Pine\_Guest. Personal interview. 12 Dec. 1994  
"WorldMOO Christmas Party." WorldMOO.  
Online. Internet. 24 Dec. 1994.

## **ONLINE REFERENCE SOURCES and DATABASES:**

**MLA:** List the author's name (if known), last name first, the title of the article or entry, enclosed in quotation marks, the title of the complete work, underlined, followed by and publication information. Next, list the name of the service, underlined, the medium of publication, and the name of the network or provider, and the date of access.

"Fine Arts." Dictionary of Cultural Literacy. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Ed.  
E.D. Hirsch, Jr, Joseph F. Kett, and James Trefil.  
Boston: houghton Mifflin, 1993. America Online.  
Online. INSO Corp. 20 May 1996.

## **ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS:**

**MLA:** List the author's name, last name first (if known), the title of the article or entry, enclosed in quotation marks, the title of the complete work, underlined, any version or publication information, the type of medium, the city of publication, the name of the publisher, and the date of publication.

Zenger, Herman E. "Aldehyde." The Software  
Toolworks Multimedia Encyclopedia. Vers. 1.5  
DC-ROM. Boston: Grolier, 1992.

## **SOFTWARE and VIDEO GAMES:**

**MLA:** List the author's name, if known, last name first, the title of the software or video game (underlined), the version or other identifying information, if applicable, the type of medium, the publisher information, and the date of publication.

ID Software. The Ultimate Doom. Diskette, CD-ROM.  
NY: GT Interactive Software, 1995.