In-Text Citations

Making sense of MLA documentation

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You need to determine:

- 1. What do I need to cite?
- 2. Where am I going to place the citation?

The "What"

- 1. Cite by whatever appears FIRST in the works cited entry!
- usually an author's last name
- if no author, usually the title of the article/ webpage

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What would you cite by for each entry?

Cheng, Evelyn. "US-China War Increasingly a 'reality,' Chinese Army Official Says: Report." *CNBC*. CNBC, 29 Jan. 2017. Web. 31 Jan. 2017.

Electronic Arts. Battlefield 1. EA and DICE, 2016. Computer software.

Karas, Michael, and Charilaos Megas. "Aris." Greek Mythology.Greekmythology.com. Web. 20 Feb. 2017. 24 Jan. 2017.

The Holy Bible. New International Version. Bible Gateway. Bible Gateway. Web. 20 Jan. 2017.

The "What"

- 1. Cite by whatever appears FIRST in the works cited entry!
- 2. Add identifying information (if applicable).
- page # (for a physical book)
- definition # (dictionary)
- book name, chapter and verse (Bible)
- act, scene, and line # (Shakespeare)

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Examples:

Jesus tells his disciples, "Go forth and fish or something" (*The Holy Bible*, Matthew 2.24).

Juliet cries, "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" (Shakespeare 2.1.146).

Works Cited:

The Holy Bible. New International Version. Bible Gateway. Bible Gateway. Web. 20 Jan. 2017. Shakespeare, William. Romeo and Juliet. Open Sources Shakespeare. 2017. Web. 20 Jan. 2017.

- If there's no identifying information (e.g. websites), then leave off.
- If you're citing an entire work (*all* of a book, or an entire Shakespeare play, rather than a specific line), you don't need an identifier.
- Don't use **more** than you need. Don't cite the author and the title and the publisher. Just what appears *first* in the works cited entry.

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The "Where"

Goals for in-text citations:

- To include it as briefly as possible, without interrupting the flow of the text
- This means that, once you've identified the right information to include in your citation, how you do it is a matter of STYLE

NO REPETITION

If you use an author's name, title, or page number in the text, don't repeat it in parentheses.

I want to cite the line, "Awright, I'll go to hell," which appears on p. 239 of my copy of *Huck Finn*. Below is the works cited entry.

What do I need to include in my citation?

Works Cited: Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. New York: Bantam Books, 1981.

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All three of these examples of in-text citations are $\underline{\text{correct}}.$ What different techniques has the author used?

Example 1 On page 239, Mark Twain criticizes the values of Southern slave society when young Huck Finn decides, "Awright, I'll go to hell" and decides to sneak Jim out of slavery.

Example 2 Huck's actions criticize the values of his society when he decides, "Awright, I'll go to hell," and opts to sneak Jim out of slavery (Twain 239).

Example 3 Mark Twain criticizes the values of Southern slave society when young Huck Finn decides, "Awright, I'll go to hell" and decides to sneak Jim out of slavery (239).

Works Cited: Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. New York: Bantam Rooks, 1981

Three types of in-text citations:

1) Citing within the sentence you have written

On page 239, Mark Twain criticizes the values of Southern slave society when young Huck Finn decides, "Awright, I'll go to hell" and decides to sneak Jim out of slavery.

2) Citing in parentheses after you give source information (parenthetical citation)

Huck's actions criticize the values of his society when he decides, "Awright, I'll go to hell" and opts to sneak Jim out of slavery (*Twain 239*).

3) Combining strategies

Mark Twain criticizes the values of Southern slave society when young Huck Finn decides, "Awright, I'll go to hell" and decides to sneak Jim out of slavery (239).

Works Cited: Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. New York: Bantam Books, 1981

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Which of the following in-text citations are correct?

- 1. In the novel *Angel of Harlem* by Kuwana Haulsey, the main character May wants to be a doctor. But as she follows this dream, she loses touch with her father, and eventually loses her flancé, leaving her alone.
- In the novel Angel of Harlem by Kuwana Haulsey, the main character May wants to be a doctor. But as she follows this dream, she loses touch with her father, and eventually loses her fiancé, leaving her alone (Haulsey 95).
- 3. In the novel *Angel of Harlem*, the main character May wants to be a doctor. But as she follows this dream, she loses touch with her father, and eventually loses her fiancé, leaving her alone (Haulsey 2004).
- 4. In the novel, the main character May wants to be a doctor. But as she follows this dream, she loses touch with her father, and eventually loses her fiancé, leaving her alone (Haulsey, Angel of Harlem).

Works Cited: Haulsey, Kuwana. Angel of Harlem. New York: One Ballantine Books, 2004.

Special Cases

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The dictionary/thesaurus: The first thing that appears in your dictionary citation is your word in quotation marks. If you just used that, your dictionary and thesaurus sources would likely be identical. So you'll need to also include the name of the dictionary/thesaurus.

If you wish to cite a specific definition, include the relevant designation (e.g. number or letter) after the abbreviation "def."

EXAMPLE using parenthetical citation:

The dictionary defines insanity as "disordered intellect, diseased or unsound mind, madness, lunacy" ("Insanity," *Oxford Dictionaries*, def. 1a).

Which do you prefer? (issue of style!)

Example 1: Success is defined as "the particular fortune (good or bad) befalling anyone in a particular situation" ("Success," *Oxford Dictionaries*, def. 1).

Example 2: According to Oxford Dictionaries, success is defined as "the particular fortune (good or bad) befalling anyone in a particular situation" ("Success," def. 1).

Example 3: According to definition 1 of Oxford Dictionaries, success is defined as "the particular fortune (good or bad) befalling anyone in a particular situation" ("Success").

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Quotations

Remember, the citation is citing the quote website. BUT, you still need to give credit to the person to said the quote.

Use the name of the author of the quote within your text and the web page title in parentheses:

Example:

As Bernard Shaw quipped, "All great truths began as blasphemies" ("Bernard Shaw Quotes").

Works Cited: "Bernard Shaw Quotes." *Brainy Quotes*, Brainy Quotes, 2020. www.brainyquotes.com. Accessed 26 Jan. 2020.

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