

MLA Documentation



In-Text Citations and the Works Cited Page

(Examples come from: Hacker, Diana. “Documenting Sources.” 2 Dec. 2007.

<<http://www.dianahacker.com/Resdoc>>.)



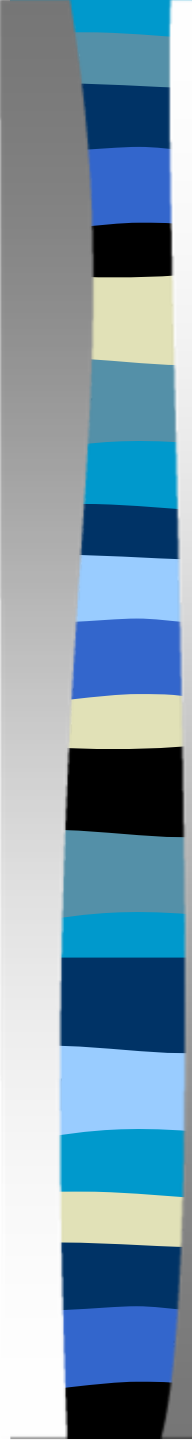
Essential Question

- If you were a writing tutor and had to advise a student how to use MLA documentation to document her sources in her research paper, how would you advise this student?



Warm-Up

- Look at the following passages.
According to the in-text citation, where did the information come from?



Morgan's mother, Patti Pena, reports that the driver "ran a stop sign at 45 mph, broadsided my vehicle and killed Morgan as she sat in her car seat." A week later, corrections officer Shannon Smith, who was guarding prisoners by the side of the road, was killed by a woman distracted by a phone call (Besthoff).

As of 2001, at least three hundred towns and municipalities had considered legislation regulating use of cell phones while driving ("Lawmakers" 2).

According to police reports, there were no skid marks indicating that the distracted driver who killed John and Carole Hall had even tried to stop (Stockwell, "Man" B4).



In-Text Citations

- Purpose: To point way to sources listed in the works cited list.
 - Use first piece of information in works cited entry and page number, if available in the in-text citations

Example:

Most states do not keep adequate records on the number of times cell phones are a factor in accidents; as of December 2000, only ten states were trying to keep such records (Sundeen 2).



In-Text Citations

- If author or title of article is in the lead-in phrase for a quote/paraphrase, it is not necessary to repeat it in the in-text citation

Example:

Christine Haughney reports that shortly after Japan made it illegal to use a handheld phone while driving, "accidents caused by using the phones dropped by 75 percent" (A8).



In-Text Citations

- If the same piece of information is listed first in the works cited page (e.g. two articles written by the same author, or two articles with the same title but no author), the in-text citation needs to have an extra piece of information



In-Text Citations

Example:

On December 6, 2000, reporter Jamie Stockwell wrote that distracted driver Jason Jones had been charged with "two counts of vehicular manslaughter . . . in the deaths of John and Carole Hall" ("Phone" B1). The next day Stockwell reported the judge's ruling: Jones "was convicted of negligent driving and fined \$500, the maximum penalty allowed" ("Man" B4).



Other Tips

- Every time you get information from a source, you must cite it using in-text citations.
- If you have several pieces of information in a row from one source, just put the citation at the end, not after every piece of information



Quick-Think

- Create an in-text citation for the following:

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington by John Wilkes Booth, an actor, who somehow thought he was helping the South. The opposite was the result, for with Lincoln's death, the possibility of peace with magnanimity died.

“Abraham Lincoln.” The White House. 2 Dec. 2007.
<<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/al16.html>>.



The Works Cited Page

- Tips for the Works Cited page:
 - Entries are in alphabetical order by the first piece of information that appears in the entry (e.g. author's last name or title of article)
 - Put “Works Cited” at the top of the page
 - Information and format of works cited entry depends on type of source (look at example in *Rules for Writers*)



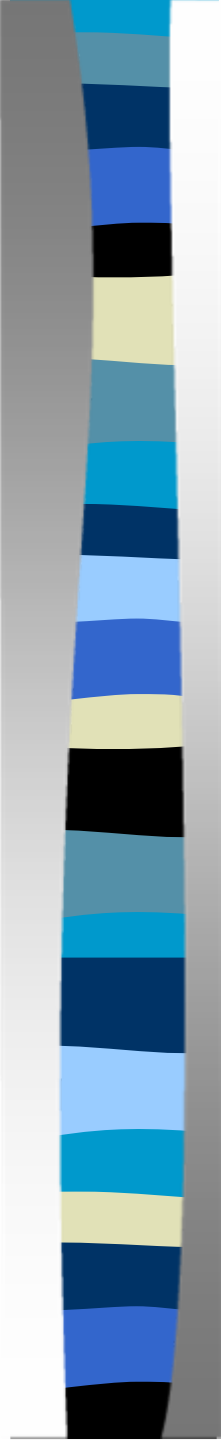
Practice

- Create a works-cited entry (look on your worksheet)



Avoiding Plagiarism

- When using information from a source, paraphrase or quote
 - If you paraphrase, make sure your working is not too close to the original
 - If you quote, do not quote long passages



Half of the force holding Fort Pillow were Negroes, former slaves now enrolled in the Union Army. Toward them Forrest's troops had the fierce, bitter animosity of men who had been educated to regard the colored race as inferior and who for the first time had encountered that race armed and fighting against white men. The sight enraged and perhaps terrified many of the Confederates and aroused in them the ugly spirit of a lynching mob.

From pages 46-47 of "The Fort Pillow Massacre," a scholarly article by Albert Castel.

Student Sample:

No doubt much of the brutality at Fort Pillow can be traced to racial attitudes. Albert Castel suggests that the sight of armed black men "enraged and perhaps terrified many of the Confederates and aroused in them the ugly spirit of a lynching mob" (47).

Albert Castel notes that 50 percent of the Union troops holding Fort Pillow were former slaves. Toward them Forrest's soldiers displayed the savage hatred of men who had been taught to view blacks as inferior and who for the first time had encountered them armed and fighting against white men (46-47).



Practice

- Determine if student samples are O.K. or plagiarized (look on worksheet)