

# MLA: In-text Parenthetical Citations & Bibliography

All information can also be found at:

<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/nshs/library/Bibliography/BibliographicFormats.htm>

## In-text Parenthetical Citations

Whenever you quote, paraphrase, summarize, or otherwise refer to the work of another, you are required to cite its source, either by way of parenthetical documentation or by means of a footnote.

For your research paper, you will be required to cite your sources—whether quotations, summaries, paraphrases, and other material—within parentheses that are to be placed at the end of the sentence in which the quoted or paraphrased material appears. The parenthetical method replaces the use of footnotes. These in-text parenthetical citations correspond to the full bibliographic entries found in a list of references at the end of your paper. (Please refer to “The Research Process at NSHS: Bibliography” for formatting of your bibliography.) Unless otherwise indicated, on-line sources follow the same pattern as print versions.

When in doubt, **cite the source!** Once again, in-text citations are generally used when:

- **You quote directly from a source**
- **You paraphrase the words of a source**
- **You cite specific statistics**
- **The information appears to be the opinion of a particular author(s)**
- **The information in a particular source conflicts with information in other sources**

Citations do not have to be used when the information fits under the category of “common knowledge” or facts that are repeated in many sources you consulted. If you see a piece of information in several different sources, you can assume it falls into this category, and therefore does not need to be cited.

## FORMATTING THE CITATIONS

### **Single author.**

The tendency to come to terms with difficult experiences is referred to as a “purification process” whereby “threatening or painful dissonances are warded off to preserve intact a clear and articulated image of oneself and one’s place in the world” (Sennett 11).

### **Two or more authors.**

Certain literacy theorists have gone so far as to declare that “the most significant elements of human culture are undoubtedly channeled through words, and reside in the particular range of meanings and attitudes which members of any society attach to their verbal symbols” (Goody and Watt 323).

### **Corporate author (organization, association, etc.).**

The federal government has funded research concerning consumer protection and consumer transactions with online pharmacies (Food and Drug Administration 125).

### **Works with no author.**

Several critics of the concept of the transparent society ask if a large society would be able to handle the complete loss of privacy (“Surveillance Society” 115).

### **Two or more works by the same author.**

In his investigation of social identity, *The Uses of Disorder*, Sennett defines adulthood as a stage where people “learn to tolerate painful ambiguity and uncertainty” (108).

In a surprising move, Richard Sennett combines the idea of power with that of virtue: “the idea of strength is complex in ordinary life because of what might be called the element of its integrity” (Authority 19).

### **Work found in an anthology or edited collection.**

(For an essay, short story, or other document included in an anthology or edited collection, use the name of the author of the work, not the editor of the anthology or collection, but use the page numbers from the anthology or collection.

Lawrence Rosenfield analyzes the way in which New York’s Central Park held a socializing function for nineteenth-century residents similar to that of traditional republican civic oratory (222).

### **Bible passage.**

Unfortunately, the president could not recall the truism that “Wisdom is a fountain to one who has it, but folly is the punishment of fools” (New Oxford Annotated Bible, Prov. 16-22).

### **Secondary source of a quotation (someone quoted within the text of another author).**

As Erickson reminds us, the early psychoanalysts focused on a single objective: “introspective honesty in the service of self enlightenment” (qtd. in Weiland 42).

### **Web page.**

Abraham Lincoln's birthplace was designated as a National Historical Site in 1959 (National Park Service).

### **❖ Passage from a play.**

Not only do Romeo and Juliet foreshadow their death, but the words spoken by all around them shows of their tragic ending. Shakespeare foreshadows the story of Romeo and Juliet in every context of the play, and quite strongly by the mention of marriage and death. “A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;/ Do with their death bury their parents' strife.” (Prologue 5-8) or (1.2.35-38)

\* Note: Internet citations follow style of printed works. Personal or corporate author and page number should be given if they exist on the website.

## **Bibliography / List of Works Cited** (Newton South Library)

*A list of writings (or other information resources) used or considered by an author in preparing particular work*

Whenever you do research, you must give credit to those people who proposed unique ideas or provided special information that you incorporate into your research product. Often the supporting evidence you cite will come from the work of others. It is your responsibility to acknowledge the original authors or researchers for their words, ideas or images.

Your bibliography is an alphabetical listing of the resources you used in your research. You must include detailed information about each resource such as the author, title, publisher and copyright date. When no author is listed, then use the title of the resource to alphabetize your bibliography. Newton South High School follows the Modern Language Association (MLA) format. Examples of many types of information resources are attached. Pay close attention to punctuation, indentation, and spacing. Every detail is important. Following these guidelines will ensure that your bibliographic format is correct. All departments at Newton South have endorsed this bibliography document.

### **Plagiarize**

1. To use or pass off as one's own (the ideas or writings of another)
2. To appropriate for use as one's own passages or ideas from (another). To put forth as original to oneself the ideas or words of another\*

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of the ideas, words or images of another person. High schools and colleges across America expect students and researchers to document all of the information sources they use. Many schools provide guidelines for avoiding plagiarism, including yours. Newton South High School has a "Plagiarism Policy" that is included in The Orange Lion. Every student should review it. To avoid any suspicion of plagiarism, be sure to give credit where credit is due. Acknowledge all interviews, images, and other people's words or ideas when you submit your work.

Whenever you are uncertain, be sure to ask your teacher or librarian. Always keep in mind that it is better to document a source than to omit documentation.

## SAMPLE BIBLIOGRAPHY / WORKS CITED

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All bibliographic examples in this handout follow the documentation format developed by the Modern Language Association as described in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th edition, ©2003, by Joseph Gibaldi.

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