

GUIDE TO MLA DOCUMENTATION

**Loyalsock Township
High School**

Updated July 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LISTING SOURCES IN THE WORKS CITED SECTION	4
A BOOK (including an E-BOOK such as Kindle, Nook, etc.).....	7
PART OF BOOK	9
A NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE ARTICLE	10
AN ARTICLE FROM AN ENCYCLOPEDIA	11
A REFERENCE BOOK ON CD-ROM.....	12
A TELEVISION PROGRAM.....	12
VIDEOTAPES AND DVD's	13
A SONG	14
AN INTERVIEW	15
<i>CHOICES AND CX ONLINE</i>	15
ASVAB TESTS.....	16
INTERNET WEBSITES	16
AN ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA.....	18
AN ARTICLE FROM THE WEBSITE OF A PERIODICAL.....	18
AN ONLINE BOOK.....	19
PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION	20
A SOURCE WITH NO AUTHOR LISTED	21
A SOURCE WITH MORE THAN ONE AUTHOR	22
MORE THAN ONE SOURCE BY THE SAME AUTHOR.....	22
SEVERAL AUTHORS WITH THE SAME LAST NAME.....	23
A CORPORATE AUTHOR.....	23
AN eBOOK SUCH AS KINDLE, NOOK, iBOOK, PDF, etc.....	23
TO CITE SEVERAL SOURCES IN ONE CITATION	24
IF YOU ALREADY NAMED THE AUTHOR IN YOUR SENTENCE	24
SAMPLE PARAGRAPHS, with Works Cited.....	25

WELCOME . . .

to the official Loyalsock School District Guide to MLA Style.

This guide describes the correct format for documenting sources in research papers, graduation projects and other written work. It follows the guidelines established by the Modern Language Association. For more details, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (seventh edition, 2009).

One word of caution: This is a complex process; the guide you are holding is condensed from that 292-page book. Don't expect to master this quickly or easily!

You should read through this entire guide in order, rather than simply jumping ahead to find what you need on a later page. . . .

Also, remember that this guide focuses on *documentation* and does not describe other research stages such as note cards and outlines.

Finally, be aware that some of the sample entries in this guide have been tailored to create an ideal representative example – one that is clear and user-friendly. Some of the entries do not refer to actual sources; others may not list the exact information you would find if you went to that source. (The sample paragraphs at the end, however, are developed entirely from accurate and verifiable sources.)

DOCUMENTATION . . .

means telling the reader where you got your information.

This is important for two reasons:

1. It gives proper credit to the work and research of other people.
2. It enables your readers to find the original material themselves if they want more information.

This whole process will make more sense if you remember that you're simply trying to give readers *enough information to find the original material themselves*.

WORKS CITED . . .

is the list of books, articles and websites that you used. It was formerly called a bibliography, and it comes at the very end of your paper.

A typical entry looks like this:

Hersch, Patricia. *A Tribe Apart: A Journey into the Heart of American Adolescence*. New York: Fawcett, 1998.

This gives readers enough information to locate the source in a library or bookstore – but we’re not finished yet. The reader needs to know which parts of this book you actually used. Therefore, when you take a fact or quotation from this book and use it in your paper, you must include a note, right after the information in your paper, showing that it came from Hersch and giving the page number where it can be found. Like this:

(Hersch 276)

Essentially, this tells your reader: “If you want to find this information yourself, then get the book by Hersch that’s listed in my works cited; the material you just read is found on page 276 of that book.”

This little note is called a . . .

CITATION . . . or . . . **PARENTHETICAL REFERENCE**

Citations appear throughout the actual body of your paper, immediately after each fact or quote that you got from a source. They tell the reader which source your material came from. A citation usually includes the author’s last name and a page number. Of course, some sources don’t have page numbers, and some don’t have any author listed. We’ll deal with these variations in a later section.

Since the list of works cited contains more information than the citation, we’ll start with that. However, *with each sample works cited entry, you will also find the appropriate citation listed below and to the right.*

LISTING SOURCES IN THE WORKS CITED SECTION

Although your sources may include books, articles, encyclopedias, videos, interviews, and websites, you generally need the same information in every works cited entry: the author, the title, and the publication information (how and when it appeared). As a general rule, each of these three segments should be separated by a period:

Clarke, Arthur C. *Childhood's End*. New York: Doubleday, 1953.

Here are some other ground rules:

1. The author's name should be reversed (last name first, as above).

2. When there are two or three authors, list them all, using the *same order as on the book's title page*.

In these cases, don't reverse the additional names:

Hopkins, Susan H., and Anna Thompson.

Johnson, Eric, Martin H. Greenburg, and Joseph D. Olson.

3. If there are more than three authors, list only the first and add the Latin abbreviation *et. al* (meaning "and others"):

Perlman, Ronald, et al.

4. If you use more than one book by the same author, list them alphabetically by title. Spell out the author's name **ONLY** in the first entry; thereafter, use three dashes (---):

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit*. New York: Ballantine, 1966.

---. *The Two Towers*. New York: Ballantine, 1973.

5. When capitalizing titles, don't follow the cover or title page; these often use improper capitalization for the sake of appearance. Instead, use the following capitalization rules:
 Capitalize the first and last word of every title no matter what.
 Capitalize all nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, interjections and subordinating conjunctions (after, before, where, etc.).
 In general, this means you will lowercase ONLY the following:

articles (a, an, the)
 prepositions (to, with, from, for, at, through, between, etc.)
 coordinating conjunctions (and, but, or)
 the word "to" before a verb (*How to Succeed in College*).

6. Dates should give day, month and year, in that order:
 19 July 2004
 4 Nov. 1955

7. Works cited entries use reverse indentation:

Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. *A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House*. New York: Houghton, 1965.

Swindoll, Charles R. *Two Steps Forward, Three Steps Back*. New York: Nelson, 1980.

The first line of each entry is flush left, and additional lines get indented. This makes it easier for readers to find the beginning of each new entry.

8. Though page numbers are used mainly in citations, they do show up occasionally in the list of works cited, and students sometimes wonder how to handle a passage that covers several pages. For instance, should pages 284 to 287 be written 284-287, 284-7, or 284-87? (The last is correct.) Here's a list of samples to use as a guideline:

10-12 33-35 89-99 96-101 100-01 103-04
 284-87 395-401 998-1001 1003-04 1128-29

9. The final list of works cited must be in alphabetical order. Alphabetize by whatever comes first in the entry. Usually, this will be the author's last name. If the entry has no author, then use the title. When alphabetizing titles, ignore *A*, *An* and *The*. (In other words, *The Life of Hitler* would be alphabetized under *L*, not *T*.)

The following pages contain various formats and samples entries for a various types of sources.

Each sample entry is followed by a sample citation for that entry.

1. FOR A BOOK

Include the author, title (*italicized*), city, publisher and year. Take your information from the title page. (The year is usually on the copyright page).

One author:

Fleming, Ian. *Diamonds Are Forever*. New York: Signet, 1956.

Sample citation: (Fleming 17-18)

Two authors:

Eggins, Suzanne, and Diane Slade. *Analyzing Casual Conversation*. London: Cassell, 1997.

Citation: (Eggins and Slade 192)

Three authors:

Marquart, James, Sheldon Olson, and Jonathan R. Sorenson.
The Rope, the Chair, and the Needle. Austin: U of Texas P, 1994.

Citation: (Marquart, Olson and Sorenson 221)

More than three authors:

Schultze, Quentin J., et al. *Dancing in the Dark*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Citation: (Schultze et al. 188-89)

FOR AN E-BOOK ... such as Kindle, Nook, iBooks, PDF, etc. :

List the same info, followed by the type of file :

Yancey, Rick. *The 5th Wave*. New York : Putnam-Penguin, 2013.
Kindle file.

If you cannot find the type of file, then just put *Digital file* at the end.
If the eBook includes separate publication info, include that too.

Citation : (Yancey, ch. 41)

SPECIAL NOTES:

Book titles should be *italicized*. Include the subtitle, also italicized, if one is given on the title page.

Take the name of the city from the title page.

State names aren't necessary.

If several cities are listed, use the first one.

The publisher's name should be shortened:

Where there are several names, use the first:

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Inc. becomes *Farrar*.

Little, Brown and Company, Inc. becomes *Little*.

Where there is one full name, use the last:

W. W. Norton and Co., Inc. becomes *Norton*.

Charles Scribner's Sons becomes *Scribner's*.

In university presses, use *U* and *P*:

U of Chicago P

Oxford UP

UP of Mississippi

(A partial list of these can be found in section 7.5 of the *MLA Guide*.)

If the title page says something like *Anchor Books, A Division of Doubleday & Co.* or *A Touchstone Book Published by Simon & Schuster*, then do this:

Anchor-Doubleday Touchstone-Simon

If several years are given, use the most recent.

Occasionally, very old books may be missing some publication information. Here's how to handle that:

Complete: *New York: Grantham, 1909.*

No place listed: *N.p.: Grantham, 1909.*

No publisher listed: *New York: n.p., 1909.*

No date listed: *New York: Grantham, n.d.*

No page numbers in the book: *New York: Grantham, 1909. N. pag.*

2. FOR *PART* OF BOOK

Sometimes, you will want to use one small section of a book, such as an **INTRODUCTION, FOREWORD, AFTERWORD** or **PREFACE** written by an editor or someone else. On the other hand, it might be a single chapter, story or poem in a larger collection. Here's how to handle that:

Eliot, Emory. Afterword. *The Jungle*. By Upton Sinclair.
New York: Signet. 342-50.

Sample citation: (Emory 345)

Drabble, Margaret. Introduction. *Sense and Sensibility*.
By Jane Austen. New York: Signet, 1989. v-xix.

Citation: (Drabble viii)

Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Raven." *Great Tales and Poems of
Edgar Allan Poe*. New York: Pocket, 1951. 377-81.

Citation: (Poe 378)

Bohannon, Laura. "Shakespeare in the Bush." *Ants, Indians, and
Little Dinosaurs*. Ed. Alan Ternes. New York:
Scribner's, 1975. 203-216.

Citation: (Bohannon 210-11)

The numbers at the end give the pages where the section is found in the larger book. Sometimes these are Roman numerals, as in the second example above.

Note that you must include the editor's name if one is given, as in the last example above.

3. FOR A NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Include the author (if given); the title of the article (or the headline), in quotes; the name of the publication (italicized); the date and the page(s).

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Manning, Anita. "Curriculum Battles from Left to Right."
USA Today 2 Mar. 1994: 5D.

Sample citation: (Manning 5D)

Lohr, Steve. "Now Playing: Babes in Cyberspace." *New York Times* 3 Apr. 1998: C1+.

Citation: (Lohr C22)

MAGAZINE ARTICLES:

Amelar, Sarah. "Restoration on 42nd Street." *Architecture*
Mar. 1998: 146-50.

Citation: (Amelar 149-50)

"Exploding Myths." *New Republic* 6 June 1998: 17-19.

Citation (shortened): ("Exploding" 18)

There is no punctuation between the title of the publication and the date.

In the first two entries, *5D* and *C1+* list the section and page.

C1+ means it starts on page 1 of section C but continues on a much later page, as often happens in the newspaper ("continued on page 22").

Since *Architecture* comes out monthly, only the month and year are listed.

Since the last sample has no author, the citation uses a shortened title instead.

These samples are only for articles from an actual newspaper or magazine; articles found on the Internet are described in Section 14 of this guide.

4. AN ARTICLE FROM AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OR OTHER REFERENCE BOOK

Include the author (if given), the title of the article (in quotes), the title of the reference book (italicized), the edition number, and the year:

Korngold, Ernest. "Nixon, Richard M." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 15th ed. 1987.

Sample citation: (Korngold)

"Johnstown Flood, The." *Collier's Encyclopedia*. 7th ed. 1963.

Citation (shortened): ("Johnstown")

"Antidepressant." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 10th ed. 1993.

Citation: ("Antidepressant")

NOTES:

In a reference book, the author's name is sometimes found at the very end of the article. Many reference articles do not list an author, in which case you must list it by title and use a shortened title in your citation.

List the article title as it appears, even if the order is reversed (as in the first two examples above).

City, publisher and date are not needed for reference books.

Page numbers are not used in citations for reference books. Because they use alphabetical order, readers don't need page numbers to find the material.

5. A REFERENCE BOOK ON CD-ROM

As above, with publication information:

Gilliam, Terry. "Film Production." *Encarta96 Encyclopedia*.
CD-ROM. Redmond: Microsoft, 1996.

Sample citation: (Gilliam)

"Olympic Games." *World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia*.
CD-ROM. Chicago: World Book, 1995.

Citation (shortened): ("Olympic")

6. A TELEVISION PROGRAM

List the episode (in quotes), the title of the show (italicized), the network, the call letters and city of the actual station (if available), and the date of original broadcast. Other info can be included to help identify the piece.

"JFK's Assassination." *Nova*. PBS. WPSX, Clearfield.
8 Mar. 1987.

Sample citation (shortened): ("JFK's")

"In Search of Giant Squid." *Undersea Wonders*. Discovery Channel.
9 Sep. 2002.

Citation: ("In Search of")

Pride and Prejudice. By Jane Austen. Perf. Colin Firth and
Jennifer Ehle. Arts and Entertainment Network. 6 Apr. 1996.

Citation: (*Pride*)

Remember that titles should be shortened if possible.

**The above examples are only for actual shows you watched or recorded.
For videos or DVD's that you purchased, see the next section.**

7. FOR VIDEOTAPES AND DVD'S

List the title (italicized); the director, producer or sponsoring organization; the original year (if relevant); the medium (videocassette or DVD); the company; and the year the tape or DVD was released. Other information can be included to help identify the piece.

Vertigo. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. 1958. Videocassette.
Universal, 1995.

Sample citation: (Vertigo)

The Iron Giant. Dir. Brad Bird. Perf. Jennifer Aniston and
Harry Connick Jr. DVD. Warner, 1999.

Citation: (Iron Giant)

Our Solar System. Moody Institute of Science. Videocassette.
Moody, 1996.

Citation (shortened): (Our Solar)

Alcohol Use and Its Consequences. Prod. Project Cork,
Dartmouth Medical School. DVD. Milner-Fenwick, 1982.

Citation: (Alcohol)

8. FOR A SONG

List the name of the performer, title of the song (in quotes), songwriter(s), title of album (italicized), record company, and year.

Clapton, Eric. "Born in Time." By Bob Dylan. *Pilgrim*.
Reprise, 1998.

Sample citation: (Clapton)

Pink Floyd. "Us and Them." By Roger Waters. *The Dark Side of the Moon*. Gramophone, 1973.

Citation: (Pink Floyd)

If you cite several songs by the same band, you can put the composer's name first, or the title; otherwise, you might have 27 entries that all begin with *Pink Floyd*, which would be awkward. If you list by composer or title, put the performer after the album:

LISTED BY COMPOSER:

Waters, Roger. "Us and Them." *The Dark Side of the Moon*.
By Pink Floyd. Gramophone, 1973.

Citation: (Waters)

LISTED BY SONG TITLE:

"Us and Them." By Roger Waters. *The Dark Side of the Moon*.
By Pink Floyd. Gramophone, 1973.

Citation (shortened): ("Us")

9. FOR AN INTERVIEW

Include the name, type of interview, and date.

Blair, Johnny J. Personal interview. 18 Dec. 2003.

Sample citation: (Blair)

Cage, Nicolas. Telephone interview. 11 Jan. 2002.

Citation: (Cage)

Note that this is ONLY for interviews that you PERSONALLY conducted. Interviews published in newspaper or magazines should use the format covered in Sections 3 and 14.

10. FOR CHOICES AND CX ONLINE (ON THE LTSD COMPUTER NETWORK)

“Interest Profile.” *Choices*. ISM Information Systems Management, Inc. 2014.

Citation: (“Interest”)

“Career Finder.” *Choices Explorer*. 2014. Bridges Transitions, Inc. *Your date of access* <<https://cxonline.bridges.com-cx/careers/finder/Introduction.do>>.

Citation: (“Career”)

The year and date, of course, should match the year and date in which you completed the inventories.

Please note that other material found on these sites (for instance, an article titled “Fire-fighter” or “Lawyer”) should be listed as Internet sources using the format listed in Section 12 below.

11. FOR ASVAB TESTS
(ADMINISTERED TO LTHS JUNIORS)

United States Department of Defense. *Exploring Careers*.
Chicago: GPO, 2014.

Citation: (United States)

Again, the year must match the year in which you took the test.

12. FOR INTERNET WEBSITES

In order to qualify for use in research, Internet sources should have an author or a sponsoring institution (for instance, *Stanford University* or *The American Cancer Society*); or they must be reputable, established sites such as *The Internet Movie Database*. Avoid personal home pages and websites.

Internet citations should include the following:

Author (if given)

Title of page, article, or section of website (in quotes)

Title of website (*italicized*)

Name of sponsoring organization

Date of website (year only is OK if that's all that's listed)

The word *Web* -- to clarify that this is an Internet source

Date you accessed the material

URL in angle brackets (< >)

All of these are followed by a period, except sponsoring org.

Forester, Robert. "Einstein: Image and Impact." *Albert Einstein*.
American Institute for Physics, 1998. Web. 20 Sep. 2010.
<<http://www.aip.org/history/einstein/>>.

Sample citation: (Forester)

"The Lonesome Soul." *Modern American Literature Database*.
1997. Web. 9 Mar. 2009.
<<http://www.southcoastuniv.edu/laldb/>>.

Citation (shortened): ("Lonesome")

“This Day in History: August 20.” *The History Channel Online*.
History Channel, 1998. Web. 19 Nov. 1998.
<<http://historychannel.com/thisday/today/980820.html>>.

Citation: (“This Day”)

“Fire-fighter.” *CX Online*. Bridges.com, 2002. Web. 13 Dec. 2002.
<<http://www.pa.cx.bridges.com>>.

Citation: (“Fire-fighter”)

“Lawyer.” *Choices*. ISM Information Systems Management, Inc.
2003.

Citation: (“Lawyer”)

Each item is followed by a period (except the sponsoring org., if given).
Put a period at the end, too.

Author and date are sometimes listed at the very end of the article or section.

Please note that the last two samples above are for information from the
Choices or *CX Online* websites accessed through the high school computer
lab.

Important note regarding URLs:

MLA now recommends avoiding URLs because A) they change so often,
and B) online resources can often be found using a search format such as
Google or Ask.com. HOWEVER, LTHS recommends continuing to provide
URLs unless you are absolutely certain your teacher can find the site or
source without one!

13. FOR AN ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Include the author (if given), the title of the article (in quotes), the title of the encyclopedia (italicized), the sponsoring organization, the year, the medium (Web), your date of access, and the URL.

Jackson, Harold S. "Alexander the Great." *Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia*. Microsoft Encarta, 2003. Web. 9 July 2003. <<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/refpages/artcenter.aspx>>.

Sample citation: (Jackson)

"Pearl Harbor." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2002. Web. 8 May 2001. <<http://search.eb.com/>>.

Citation: ("Pearl Harbor")

14. FOR AN ARTICLE FROM THE WEBSITE OF A MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER

Include the author (if given), title or headline (in quotes), name of the publication or its website (italicized), sponsoring org., date of publication, medium (Web), date of access, and URL.

Jones, John T. "The Truth about Y2K." *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles Times, 5 Feb. 1998. Web. 10 Dec. 1998. <<http://www.latimes.com/business/y2k/article28/html>>.

Sample citation: (Jones)

"Two Murderers Escape from Elmira Prison." *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*. Williamsport Sun-Gazette, 8 July 2003. Web. 19 Sep. 2003. <<http://sungazette.com/sectionp/asp?sectionID=1>>.

Citation (shortened): ("Two Murderers")

Bowden, Mark. "Tales of the Tyrant." *The Atlantic*. The Atlantic, May 2003. Web. 10 Oct. 2003. <<http://theatlantic.com/issues/2002/05/Bowden.htm>>.

Citation: (Bowden)

"Hip-hop Thrives in Israel." *Rolling Stone*. Rolling Stone, 8 July 2003. Web. 10 Oct. 2003. <<http://www.rollingstone.com/newsarticle.asp?nid:18338>>.

Citation: ("Hip-hop")

15. FOR AN ONLINE BOOK

Include the author, title (italicized), editor (if given), city and year of original publication (if given), sponsoring website or organization, your date of access, and the URL.

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Boston, 1845. *African-American Literature Project*. Web. 14 Nov. 2003 <gopher://gopher.vt.edu:10010/02/73/1>.

Sample citation: (Douglass)

PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION

The previous section can be used to create your list of works cited. Readers can consult this list if they want to find one of your sources.

Now you need something in the actual paper to tell readers which piece of information came from which source.

This is done with a CITATION, or parenthetical reference.

A citation normally contains the author's last name and a page number, in parentheses, placed immediately after the cited info. in your paper:

Some fans believed that Babe Ruth was “the greatest player ever to participate in the game” (Barrows 77).

Together with the list of works cited, this gives readers enough information to locate that quote on their own. It tells the reader, “If you want to see this information for yourself, find the book by Barrows that is on my list of works cited; this quotation is from page 77 of that book.”

Unfortunately, there are many variations on citation format.

For instance, if you have *two* books by Barrows in your works cited, the citation will have to include a first initial, so readers can figure out which one you meant.

Likewise, if you used two encyclopedia articles that were both called *Pearl Harbor*, and neither one of them had an author, then your citation would need to say something like (“*Pearl Harbor*,” Britannica) so readers can tell which *Pearl Harbor* source you're referring to.

When you need to put extra material in a citation for clarity, use information that is near the beginning of the works cited entry; that way, readers will be able to find it easily.

Several variations in citations are listed below.

FOR A SOURCE WITH NO AUTHOR LISTED:

Use the title in your citation. Long titles should be shortened.

Highlights of Babe Ruth's Major League Career could be:

(*Highlights*)

“Great Pitchers of the 1920’s” could be:

(“Great Pitchers”)

or simply:

(“Great”)

Note that the shortened title should be italicized or in quotes, just as it appears in the list of works cited.

If you have two anonymous articles with the same title (for instance, two encyclopedia articles titled *Ruth, George Herman*), then you need more info. from the entry so your reader can tell them apart:

(“Ruth,” *Britannica*)

(“Ruth,” *MSNBC.com*)

Remember, you are just trying to give readers enough information to figure out which source you’re referring to.

FOR A SOURCE WITH MORE THAN ONE AUTHOR:

Include two or three names but not more than three, just as in the list of works cited (see Section 1 above):

Two authors:

(Barrows and Johnson 77)

Do this even if the two last names are the same (as with a husband-and-wife writing team):

(Steiner and Steiner 115-17)

Three authors:

(Barrows, Johnson and Randolph 77)

More than three authors:

(Barrows et al. 77)

(This is the way three authors get listed in the works cited, too.)

FOR MORE THAN ONE SOURCE BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

Include a shortened title in the citation:

(Barrows, *Babe's Greatest* 77)

(Barrows, *Yankees* 155-56)

FOR SEVERAL AUTHORS WITH THE SAME LAST NAME:

Include a first initial:

(R. Barrows 77)

(F. Barrows 123-24)

FOR A CORPORATE AUTHOR:

(Major League Baseball 77)

(Yankees Historical Society 223)

These could be shortened to *Major League* or *Yankees Historical* if desired.

FOR AN E-BOOK ... such as Kindle, Nook, iBook, PDF, etc. :

Do not include page numbers in the citation, since these change from one user to the next. **BUT...** **do** include chapter numbers if the book has them :

(Yancey, ch. 41)

NOTE that you should use a comma after the author's name (even though most other types of citations don't).

EXCEPTION : If it's just a PDF of a regular book, then **DO** include page numbers, since these will be the same for everyone.

TO CITE SEVERAL SOURCES IN ONE CITATION:

Occasionally, you might find the same fact in several different sources. If you wish, you may cite more than one source in a single citation, by using semicolons between each source:

(Barrows 77; Johnson 12; Geiger and Geiger 253-54)

IF YOU ALREADY NAMED THE AUTHOR IN YOUR SENTENCE:

One very common device in research papers is to mention the author in the sentence itself. If you do this, you don't need that name in the citation:

According to sports writer Bob Barrows, many fans felt Ruth was "the greatest player ever to participate in the game" (77). Barrows also claimed that Ruth was one of baseball's most underrated pitchers (110).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Use citations for all borrowed information, not just quotations.

You should leave page numbers out if your source itself does not have page numbers (for instance, an Internet website or an article from a CD-ROM).

Always place the period of your sentence *after* the citation.

If you are using a quotation that has a period at the end, leave it out. For example, in the sample paragraph above, the first quote probably had a period after *game*; but you don't need one in your paper; the period after (77) suffices; otherwise, you've got two periods in one sentence, which is wrong.

Don't repeat the same citation over and over again for facts that are right next to each other:

Some fans believed Ruth's career was over (Barrows 223). They also felt that Ruth should have hit the ball harder at the end of his career (Barrows 223). Furthermore, fans didn't like Ruth's less serious approach to the game (Barrows 223).

This looks dumb. Eliminating the first two citations will tell readers that all of the preceding facts came from page 223 of Barrows:

Some fans believed Ruth's career was over. They also felt that Ruth should have hit the ball harder at the end of his career. Furthermore, fans didn't like Ruth's less serious approach to the game (Barrows 223).

SAMPLE PARAGRAPHS, with Works Cited

To help clarify matters further, the following page offers two sample paragraphs from a research paper on Alfred Hitchcock. It includes citations in proper format, and is followed by a list of works cited that covers all the material in the paragraphs.

These paragraphs do not represent a complete or ideal research paper, but are offered only as a sample of how MLA format should be handled. In fact, this material could probably have been presented more efficiently, and with fewer citations, if I hadn't been trying so hard to demonstrate MLA format.

Hitchcock's career included many impressive achievements. He directed a total of 53 feature films (Kapsis 247-48). He also edited several short story collections and hosted two television programs ("Hitchcock," *Microsoft*). He received the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award in 1967 (Leigh and Nickens 193) and the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1979 ("Alfred Hitchcock," *Internet Movie Database*). Actress Kim Novak has stated that Hitchcock was the greatest director she ever worked with ("Hitchcock," *Larry King*). Moreover, a 1982 poll of international film critics named Hitchcock's *Vertigo* one of the ten best films of all time (Wood, "Male" 219); one critic claims that "the last third of *Vertigo* is one of the most disturbing and painful experiences the cinema has to offer" (Wood, *Hitchcock's* 387).

One of Hitchcock's most remarkable achievements is the influence his work has had on cinema and on culture in general. Indeed, critic Leonard Maltin claims that "his influence on a younger generation of film-makers is impossible to overstate" (403). For example, director John Carpenter said he filmed much of *Halloween* to resemble a Hitchcock movie (Kapsis 160), and many critics have noted the Hitchcockian elements running through the movies of director Brian DePalma (Kapsis 188). Hitchcock's movie *Psycho* has inspired three sequels (Smith 182-91), a shot-for-shot remake in 1998 (Condon and Sangster 239) and the A&E TV show *The Bates Motel* ("*Psycho*"); the latter stars Freddie Highmore and Vera Farmiga ("Bates"). Furthermore, in the 1980's, fashion designer Paul Monroe released a line of Hitchcock clothing, including dresses, T-shirts and a frock patterned after the shower curtain in *Psycho* (Corliss 77). Clearly, Hitchcock's influence has been substantial.

WORKS CITED

- “Alfred Hitchcock.” *The Internet Movie Database*. Internet Movie Database, 2003. Web. 30 July 2003. <<http://us.imdb.com/Bio?Hitchcock%20Alfred>>.
- “Bates Motel: Meet the Cast.” *AETV.com*. Arts and Entertainment, 2014. Web. 17 June 2014. <<http://www.aetv.com/bates-motel/cast/freddie-highmore>>.
- Condon, Paul, and Jim Sangster. *The Complete Hitchcock*. London: Virgin, 1999.
- Corliss, Richard. “The Master Who Knew Too Much.” *Time* 26 Mar. 1984: 77-78.
- “Hitchcock, Sir Alfred Joseph.” *Microsoft Encarta 96 Encyclopedia*. CD-ROM. Redmond: Microsoft, 1996.
- “Hitchcock Up Close.” *Larry King Live*. CNN. 25 Aug. 2003.
- Kapsis, Robert E. *Hitchcock: The Making of a Reputation*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1992.
- Leigh, Janet, and Christopher Nickens. *Psycho: Behind the Scenes of the Classic Thriller*. New York: Harmony, 1995.
- Maltin, Leonard, ed. *Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia*. New York: Plume, 1995.
- “Psycho.” *Wikipedia*. Wikipedia.org, 11 June 2014. Web. 17 June 2014. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psycho_\(1960_film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psycho_(1960_film))>.
- Smith, Joseph W., III. *The Psycho File: A Comprehensive Guide to Hitchcock's Classic Shocker*. Jefferson: McFarland, 2009.
- Wood, Robin. *Hitchcock's Films Revisited*. New York: Columbia UP, 1989.
- . “Male Desire, Male Anxiety.” *A Hitchcock Reader*. Ed. Marshall Deutelbaum and Leland Poague. Ames: Iowa State UP, 1986. 219-30.