Citation Basics: MLA 2019
Adapted from Purdue OWL

General Rules
- When you present information that is not your own original idea and language, or general knowledge, you must attribute or provide credit to the creator with a citation that mentions the author name and source.
- Source information required in a parenthetical citation depends (1) upon the source medium (e.g. print, web, DVD) and (2) upon the source's entry on the Works Cited page.
- Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page.
  - Whatever signal word or phrase you provide to your readers in the text must be the first thing that appears on the left-hand margin of the corresponding entry on the Works Cited page. (Author name or Title)
  - If a text is not included in your paper, it does not belong on the Works Cited page
    - bibliography vs. Works Cited
- Punctuation matters!

In-text citations
- For print sources like books, magazines, scholarly journal articles, and newspapers, provide a signal word or phrase (usually author's last name) and a page number. If signal word/phrase is in your sentence, you do not need to include it in the parenthetical citation.
- Page number should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.

  Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

  Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

  Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

- These examples correspond to the Works Cited page entry that begins with Wordsworth, the first thing to appear on the left-hand margin of the Works Cited list.

  Wordsworth, William. Lyrical Ballads. Oxford UP, 1967.

- Refer to Purdue OWL MLA Handbook for citation guidelines regarding multiple authors, texts with no known author, digital media, online sources, etc…
  https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html

Short quotations
- Short quotations are four typed lines or less of prose, three or less of verse, taken directly from the source.
- Enclose quotation within double quotation marks.
- Provide the author/page citation in-text, complete reference on Works Cited page.
- Maintain the punctuation marks, font, etc… of the original text in the quotation (if necessary)
- Place your punctuation marks (period, comma, semi-colon) after the parentheses.

  According to some, dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.

  According to Foulkes's study, dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (184).

  Is it possible that dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184)?

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- When using short (fewer than three lines of verse) quotations from poetry, mark breaks in verse with a slash, (/), at the end of each line of verse (a space should precede and follow the slash). If a stanza break occurs during the quotation, use a double slash (//).

> Cullen concludes, "Of all the things that happened there / That's all I remember" (11-12).

Long quotations
- More than four lines of prose or three lines of verse, place quotations in a free-standing block of text and omit quotation marks.
- Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented ½ inch from the left margin while maintaining double-spacing. Parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.
- Maintain double-spacing throughout your essay

For example, when citing more than four lines of prose, use the following example:

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

> They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no
>
> more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the
>
> morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and
>
> there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was
>
> obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the
>
> house. (Bronte 78)

Adding/Omitting words in quotations
- Since the quote is included in *your* text, it must be grammatically correct according to your language/ syntax.
- Use brackets [ ] to indicate changes, words that are not part of the original text.
    > Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states, "some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78).

- Use ellipses . . . to indicate gaps created by language you omit (note spaces before and after)
    > In an essay on urban legends, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale . . . and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs" (78).

Works Cited
- **Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page** at the end of your research paper. It should have the **same one-inch margins and last name, page number header** as the rest of your paper.
- Label the page Works Cited (**do not** italicize the words Works Cited, underline, or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
- **Only the title** should be centered. The citation entries themselves should be aligned with the left margin.
- **Double space all citations**, but do not skip spaces between entries.
- **Indent the second and subsequent lines** of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.
- If only one page of a print source is used, mark it with the abbreviation "p." before the page number (e.g., p.157). If a span of pages is used, mark it with the abbreviation "pp." before the page number (e.g., pp.157-168).
- If you're citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database, you should type the **online database name in italics**. You do not need to provide subscription information in addition to the database name.

- For **online sources, you should include a location to show readers where you found the source**. Many scholarly databases use a DOI (digital object identifier). Use a DOI in your citation if you can; otherwise use a URL. **Delete "http://" from URLs.** The DOI or URL is usually the last element in a citation and should be followed by a period.
- All works cited entries end with a period.
- **Capitalize each word in the titles of articles, books**, etc, but do not capitalize articles (the, an), prepositions, or conjunctions unless one is the first word of the title or subtitle: Gone with the Wind, The Art of War, There Is Nothing Left to Lose.
- **Use italics** (instead of underlining) for **titles of larger works** (books, magazines) and **quotation marks for titles of shorter works** (poems, articles)
- **Entries are listed alphabetically by the author's last name** (or, for entire edited collections, editor names)

Basic Book Format
- The author's name or a book with a single author's name appears in last name, first name format.
    > Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.
- When a book has multiple authors, order the authors in the same way they are presented in the book. The first given name appears in last name, first name format followed by the other author.
    > Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring. Allyn and Bacon, 2000.
- Three or more authors, list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (Latin for "and others")
    > Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition. Utah State UP, 2004.

Article in a Magazine
- Cite by listing the article's author, putting the title of the article in quotations marks, and italicizing the periodical title. Follow with the date of publication. Remember to abbreviate the month
    > Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, pages.

    > Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time*, 20 Nov. 2000, pp. 70-71.

    > Buchman, Dana. "A Special Education." *Good Housekeeping*, Mar. 2006, pp. 143-48.

Article in a Newspaper
- Cite a newspaper article as you would a magazine article, but note the different pagination in most newspapers (based on edition)
    > Brubaker, Bill. "New Health Center Targets County's Uninsured Patients." *Washington Post*, 24 May 2007, p. LZ01.

    > Krugman, Andrew. "Fear of Eating." *New York Times*, late ed., 21 May 2007, p. A1.

Article in a Scholarly Journal
- Cite the author and title of article as you normally would. Then, put the title of the journal in italics. Include the volume number ("vol.") and issue number ("no.") when possible, separated by commas. Finally, add the year and page numbers.
    > Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, pages.

    > Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's Bashai Tudu." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, vol. 15, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-50.

Digital Sources/Web Sites/Images
- List the author or alias if known, followed by an indication of the specific page or article being referenced. Usually, the title of the page or article appears in a header at the top of the page. Follow this with the information for entire Web sites. If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.

"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." WebMD, 25 Sept. 2014, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview.

- Begin with the user's Twitter handle in place of the author's name. Next, place the tweet in its entirety in quotations, inserting a period after the tweet within the quotations. Include the date and time of posting, using the reader's time zone; separate the date and time with a comma and end with a period. Include the date accessed if you deem necessary.

@tombrokaw. "SC demonstrated why all the debates are the engines of this campaign." Twitter, 22 Jan. 2012, 3:06 a.m., twitter.com/tombrokaw/status/160996868971704320.

- Provide the artist's name, the work of art italicized, the date of creation, the institution and city where the work is housed. Follow this initial entry with the name of the Website in italics, and the date of access.

Goya, Francisco. The Family of Charles IV. 1800. Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid. Museo Nacional del Prado, www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-work/the-family-of-carlos-iv/f47898fc-aa1c-48f6-a779-71759e417e74. Accessed 22 May 2006.

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science.1065007.