MLA Source Integration

Integrating and Citing Sources in MLA

Integrating Sources

- The purpose of this workshop is to:
  - Focus on integrating and citing sources in MLA.
  - Discuss how to effectively integrate sources into your writing.
  - Discuss how to correctly cite sources in MLA.
  - Practice creating in-text citations.
  - Answer questions you have about integrating sources in MLA.

Citing Sources

- In-text citations are required when you use information from a source, whether that information is quoted or paraphrased.

- In-text citations (parenthetical citations) are meant to let your reader know when you use source information.

References in the text must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited.

Identify the location of borrowed information as specifically as possible (i.e. page number).

(MLA 215)

Integrating Sources

- When you cite a source in your own writing, there are two options available to you:

Signal Phrase

John Swales explains that discourse communities can be defined by six characteristics (471).

Parenthetical Citation

Discourse communities can be defined by six characteristics (Swales 471).

In-text Citations: No Author

- **For sources with no known author:**
  - Cite this work by the title.
  - Use a shortened version of the title if it is a long title.
    - "Title of Work" – article, chapter, or shorter selection
    - *Title of Work* – book, play, or longer work
  - Provide a page number.
  - Include only the title if there is no page number .
  - You can use the full title in a signal phrase or an abbreviated version of the title in parentheses.

In-text Citation with No Author
Example

Parenthetical Citation

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change" ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).

Signal Phrase

"The Impact of Global Warming in North America" explains that we see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region "has more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change" (6).
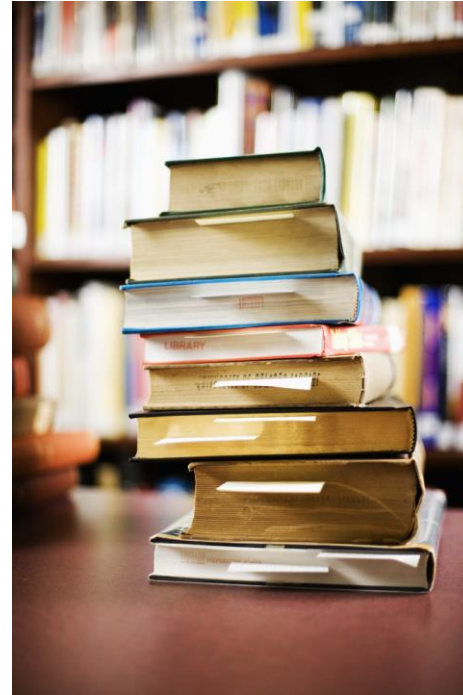
Works Cited entry

"The Impact of Global Warming in North America." *Global Warming: Early Signs*. 1999. Web. 23 Mar. 2009.

In-text Citations: The Tricky Stuff

- **Authors with the same last name:**
  - If your Works Cited list contains more than one author with the same last name, the author's first initial must be included in the parenthetical reference.
    - *Example:* (A. Patterson 183-85).
- **Two or more works by same author**:
  - When citing two or more works by the same author, put a comma after the author's name and include the title of the work (if brief) or a shortened version of the title (6.4.6).
    - *Example 1*: Shakespeare's *King Lear* has been called a comedy of the grotesque" (Frye, *Anatomy* 237).
    - *Example 2*: One's death is not a unique experience, for "every moment we have lived through we have also died out of into another order" (Frye, *Double Vision* 85).

In-text Citations: Multiple Sources

When citing two or more sources within the same citation, cite each work as your normally would in a reference, and use semicolons to separate the citations (6.4.9).

Example:

(Fukuyama 42; McRae 101-33).

In-text citations: Indirect Sources

Taking material cited in another source and using it within your own work. Whenever possible, take material from the original source; however, sometimes only an indirect source is available. (6.4.7).

Example:

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 450).

Signal Phrases

- Signal phrasing can help you integrate sources into your own writing.

  - Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).
  - Burke contends humans use symbols to interpret the messages in their environment (3).

Signal Verbs

- Acknowledges
- Advises
- Argues
- Asserts
- Believes
- Claims
- Demonstrates
- Evaluates
- Expresses
- Identifies
- Indicates

- Maintains
- Proposes
- Reaffirms
- Recognizes
- Recommends
- Reveals
- States
- Stipulates
- Suggests
- Theorizes
- Urges

Creating a Signal Phrase

Incorporating Paraphrased Material

Author's Name	Signal Verb	Source Material
John Swales	**demonstrates**	… that a discourse community can be identified through six characteristics (471).

John Swales demonstrates that a discourse community can be identified through six characteristics (471).

You can also use this formula to introduce a direct quotation.

Creating a Source Sandwich

- When using a source in your writing, it is important to connect it to an idea, introduce it using a signal phrase, and explain how it connects to this idea.

- We call this a source sandwich. ☺

Idea + Quotation (or paraphrase) + Explanation = Evidence

The Source Sandwich

IDEA

SOURCE

EXPLAIN

Deborah Brandt's discussion of literacy and literacy sponsors emphasizes the value of literacy in an individual's life.

Brandt asserts, "Literacy looms as one of the great engines of profit and competitive advantage" (333).

As literacy continues to hold value within a global society, an individual's access to literacy and literacy sponsors can have a significant impact on their future.

Suggestions

- CASA Writing Center
  - http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php
  - Logon to make an appointment to come in and visit with a Writing Consultant.
  - We also have MLA handbooks and helpful handouts.
- Purdue OWL
  - http://owl.english.purdue.edu/
  - This website has writing, formatting, and citation resources.

Works Cited

Brandt, Deborah. "Sponsors of Literacy." *College Composition and Communication* 49.2 (1998): 165-85. Print. Rpt. in *Writing About Writing*. Ed. Elizabeth Wardle and Doug Downs. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011. 331-52. Print.

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.* 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009. Print.