

# MLA Cheat Sheet

## Some of the Basic Rules and Guidelines

### MLA Formatting

- No title page
- Last name and pg. # as header
- Center title (not underlined, in quotation marks, in big font or all capitalized letters)
- 1" margins all around and double spaced

Smith 1
Beth Smith
Professor Thompson
English 105
5 September 2014
Andrew Carnegie: The Father of Middle Class America
For decades, Americans could not help but love the red-headed, fun loving Little Orphan Annie. The image of a little girl moving so quickly from poverty to wealth provided

### In-text Citations

- Sample MLA in-text citation: (Smith 7)—includes author's last name and pg # (no comma and no "pg.") \*Note: If you have already mentioned the author's name in the sentence, you only need to include the page number. Ex. Smith claims, "Cake is the most delicious dessert" (7).
- If the author of the source is unknown, use a shortened version of the title in the in-text citation. Ex. ("The Great Cake Debate" 4).
- When determining whether a title should be italicized or put in quotation marks (MLA no longer underlines titles), remember whole sources like books, journals and newspapers get italicized, but parts of a whole source like chapters or articles are not italicized but put in quotation marks. Ex. The book *Food for Thought* and the chapter "The Great Cake Debate"
- Punctuation: Punctuation (periods, commas, question marks, etc) goes after the in-text citation. Ex. Smith suggests, "Chocolate is the best flavor for cakes" (8). However, his claim that "vanilla is the worst flavor ever" (Smith 8), while might be true for him, is certainly not agreed upon by everyone. **\*Block Quotations are an Exception\***
- Quoting a Quote: If you include a quote that was not written by the author of your source, but instead a quote from someone else that he/she used, indicate in the sentence who actually said the quote and indicate in the parenthetical citation what source it came from using the phrase "qtd. in" Ex. Carol Porter states, "Cakes, while certainly delicious, are not nutritious enough to be eaten by themselves as a meal" (qtd. in Smith 9).

### Works Cited

Works Cited starts on a new page, sources listed in **alphabetical order, double spaced, with hanging indentations**

- If you only have one source it is a Work Cited, if you have multiple sources it is a Works Cited
- MLA requires that you include in what form you encountered the source (Print, Web, DVD, Radio, etc)
- MLA does **NOT** include URLs in the works cited list

Anderson 5

Works Cited

"Blueprint Lays Out Clear Path for Climate Action." *Environmental Defense Fund*. Environmental Defense Fund, 8 May 2007. Web. 24 May 2009.

Dean, Cornelia. "Executive on a Mission: Saving the Planet." *New York Times*. New York Times, 22 May 2007. Web. 25 May 2009.

Ebert. Roger. "An Inconvenient Truth." Rev. of *An Inconvenient Truth*. dir. Davis

**Sample Citations:**

Books

Last name, First name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication. **(If no author, start with the title)**

Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. New York: Penguin, 1987. Print.

Periodicals

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

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

Scholarly Journal

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume. Issue (Year): pages. Medium of publication.

Bawarshi, Anis, and Stephanie Pelkowski. "Postcolonialism and the Idea of a Writing Center." *Writing Center Journal* 19 (1999): 41-58. Print.

Websites

Author and/or editor names (if available). "Title of Article" *Title of the Website*. Publisher name. Date of publication. Medium of publication. Date you accessed the material.

Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*. A List Apart Mag., 16 Aug. 2002. Web. 4 May 2009.