



MLA STYLE: LITERARY CRITICISM ONLY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO CITING SOURCES

What is the purpose of citing sources? 2
What type of information needs to be cited? 2

Prose 6
Poetry 6
Drama 6

MODELS AND EXAMPLES

Models Based on Source Types

Journal citations vs. book citations 2
Print journal → Database 2
Print book 2
Anthology 2-3
Web site document (non-periodical) 3

Individual Database Examples

Literary Reference Center 3
Literature Resource Center 3
Literature Criticism Online 3-4
Gale Literary Databases 4
Academic Search Complete 4
eBook Collection (EBSCOhost) 4
JSTOR 4

Web Site Examples

Work cited only on Web 5
Work previously published in print 5
Article from university Web site 5
Online scholarly article 5
Google Books 5

Anthologies

Gale Literary Anthologies (print) 5
Individual Print Anthology 5

CITATIONS IN THE TEXT OF THE PAPER

What Does An In-Text Citation Contain? 5-6

FORMATTING/TYPING THE PAPER

Font = 12 pt. Times New Roman 6
Hanging indent 6
Header 7
Line spacing = Double-space everything. 7
Margins = 1 inch all around. 7
Order of works-cited list entries 7
Title page 7

OTHER INFORMATION

Abbreviations 7
Article and Publication Titles 7-8
Authors 8
Dates 9
• Date not available 9
Definitions 9
Editors/Editions 9-10
Indirect Quotations 10
Italics 10
Page Numbers 10
• Page numbers not available. 10
Publisher and Publication Information 11
• Place of publication not available (books) 11
• Publisher name not available (books) 11
Volume and Issue Numbers 11

SAMPLE DOCUMENTS

Sample Page, Sample Works Cited



YOUR ENTIRE PAPER SHOULD BE DOUBLE-SPACED!

INTRODUCTION TO CITING SOURCES

What is the purpose of citing sources? Citing sources gives authors credit for their creations. Authors must be given credit in two places: In the text of the paper and at the end of the paper in the works-cited list (bibliography). Citations in the paper direct the reader to entries in the works-cited list. The entries provide the information needed to locate the original work.

What type of information needs to be cited?

Content copied word for word.

Content paraphrased or summarized.

Ideas obtained from others (not just wording)

MODELS AND EXAMPLES

► **Models and Examples Based on Source Types**

Periodical citations vs. book citations: How can you tell the difference?

Periodicals are publications such as journals, magazines, newspapers, and newsletters published on a regular basis with new content. Most literary criticism is published in journals. Researchers must analyze source information to decide which citation format to use. Following are clues to help you decide.

- **Publication title clues:** Periodical titles often contain clues that the publication is a periodical, e.g., *English Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Magill's Literary Annual*.
- **Issue numbers:** Book citations can have volume numbers, but only periodicals can have issue numbers. However, some periodicals have volume numbers but not issue numbers.
- **Publication information:** Book citations usually provide a city of publication and the name of the publisher. Periodical citations do not provide this information.
- **Dates:** Book citations contain a year of publication only. Information provided for a periodical article may contain dates or seasons, e.g., Sept. 2009, Fall/Spring 2005. However, when you write the citation for a scholarly journal article, MLA requires that you use the year, the volume number, and, if present, the issue number. Non-scholarly periodicals use dates instead of volume and issue numbers, even if the information is provided. Examples are available in this handout.

Example: Print journal article reproduced in database (PDF document with page numbers)

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* volume.issue (Year): first page number-last page number. *Name of Database*. Web. Retrieval date.

Piper, Andrew. "Rethinking the Print Object: Goethe and the Book of Everything." *PMLA* 121.1 (2006): 124-38. *JSTOR*. Web. 28 Aug. 2013.

Example: Print book

Author(s). *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, year of publication. Print.

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Boston: Allyn, 2000. Print.

Example: Anthology (a collection of like items published together as a collection)

Print journal article reproduced in a print anthology and then reproduced in a database

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Journal Name in Italics* volume.issue (year of publication): First page number-last page number in journal (if any). Rpt. in *Title of Anthology*. Ed. Editor's name(s) (if provided). Volume number (if provided). City of publication: Publisher, year. Beginning page number-ending page number in anthology (if any). *Name of Database*. Web. Retrieval date.

Holladay, Hillary. "Narrative Space in Ann Petry's *Country Place*." *Xavier Review* 16.1 (1996): 21-35. Rpt. in *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*. Ed. Linda Pavlovski and Scott Darga. Vol. 112. Detroit: Gale, 2002. 356-62. *Literature Criticism Online*. Web. 24 Sept. 2012.

Example: Web site document (non-periodical source)

Author(s) or editor(s) (if provided). Title of the Work (italics for independent works, regular type and quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work). *Title of the Overall Web Site*. Publisher of the site (if not provided, use *N.p.*). Date of publication (if provided). (If no date is provided, use n.d.) Web. Date of access.

Everett, Glenn. "Utilitarianism." *The Victorian Web*. Ed. George P. Landow. U Scholars Program, Natl. U of Singapore, 11 Oct. 2002. Web. 18 May 2007.

► Individual Database Examples

Literary Reference Center

(Contains *Masterplots*. EBSCO database.)

***Masterplots* article printed in a volume that is part of the *Short Story Series* (no page numbers):**

Madden, David. "A Rose for Emily." *Masterplots II*. Rev. ed. N.p.: Salem, 2004. N. pag. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. Short Story Ser. 14 Feb. 2007.

***Masterplots* article printed originally in a book:**

Weigel, James., Jr. "Oedipus at Colonus." *Masterplots*. 4th ed. N.p.: Salem, 2010. N. pag. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. 29 Nov. 2012.

Print journal article reproduced in a database (PDF article with page numbers provided):

Stepp, Walter. "The Ironic Double in Poe's 'The Cask of Amontillado.'" *Studies in Short Fiction* 13.4 (1976): 447-53. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. 15 June 2009.

Literature Resource Center (Gale)

Database article (no page numbers) published previously in a print anthology:

Korb, Rena. "An Overview of 'Young Goodman Brown.'" *Short Stories for Students*. Detroit: Gale, 2002. N. pag. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 14 June 2009.

Print journal article reproduced in a database (page number provided):

Griffin, Amy A. "Jackson's 'The Lottery.'" *Explicator* 58.1 (1999): 4. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 5 May 2009.

Literature Criticism Online

(Online version of Gale anthologies)

Print journal article reproduced in a print anthology and then in a database:

Sullivan, Ruth. "The Narrator in 'A Rose for Emily.'" *The Journal of Narrative Technique* 1.3 (1971). Rpt. in *Short Story Criticism*. Ed. Jenny Cromie. Vol. 42. Detroit: Gale, 2001. 80-87. *Literature Criticism Online*. Web. 23 Oct. 2012.

Print journal article reproduced in a print anthology and then in a database:

West, Ray B., Jr. "Atmosphere and Theme in Faulkner's 'A Rose for Emily.'" *William Faulkner: Four Decades of Criticism*. Ed. Linda Welshimer Wagner. N.p.: Michigan State UP, 1973. 192-98. Rpt. in *Short Story Criticism*. Ed. Jenny Cromie. Vol. 42. Detroit: Gale, 2001. 73-75. *Literature Criticism Online*. Web. 23 Oct. 2012.

Gale Literary Databases

Print book series article reproduced in a database:

Ragland, Martha. "Shirley Jackson." *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Ed. James E. Kibler, Jr. Vol. 6. N.p.: Gale, 1980. 161-67. *Gale Literary Databases*. Web. American Novelists since World War II, 2nd Ser. 2 Nov. 2012.

Print journal article reproduced in a database:

Nebeker, Helen E. "'The Lottery': Symbolic Tour de Force." *American Literature* 46.1 (1974): 100-07. *Gale Literary Databases*. Web. 2 Nov. 2012.

***Academic Search Complete*
(multi-subject database)**

Print journal article reproduced in a database (PDF article with page numbers):

Klein, Thomas. "The Ghostly Voice of Gossip in Faulkner's 'A Rose for Emily.'" *Explicator* 65.4 (2007): 229-32. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 16 June 2009.

Print journal article reproduced in a database (online version had no page numbers):

Wallace, James M. "Faulkner's 'A Rose for Emily.'" *Explicator* 50.2 (1992): n. pag. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 2 Nov. 2012.

***eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*
(multi-subject database)**

Print book chapter reproduced in a print anthology and then reproduced in a database:

Porter, David. "David Porter on the Early Achievement." *Emily Dickinson*. N.p.: Chelsea, 1999. 46-48. Ed. Harold Bloom. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*. Web. 6 Nov. 2012.

Introduction written by the editor of a print anthology and reproduced in a database:

Bloom, Harold. Introduction. *Emily Dickinson*. Ed. Harold Bloom. N.p.: Chelsea, 1999. 9-10. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)*. Web. 6 Nov. 2012.

***JSTOR* (multi-subject database)**

Print journal article reproduced in a database:

Rosenberg, Marvin. "In Defense of Iago." *Shakespeare Quarterly* 6.2 (1955): 145-58. *JSTOR*. Web. 6 Nov. 2012.

► Web Site Examples

- **URLs.** MLA no longer requires URLs (Web addresses) in citations. Citations for electronic works contain the word "Web."
- **Items of information may be missing because Web sites are less standardized than print sources.** Some sections in this handout contain information about what to do in the case of missing information.
- **Citations for online documents published previously in print** must contain the information for both the print publication and the electronic publication.

A work cited only on the Web (author name not available for this example)

"William Faulkner Goes Online, Fifty Years Later." *NPR*. NPR, 2010. Web. 20 Aug. 2013.

(Note: The first *NPR* in the above example is the Web site name, and the second *NPR* is the Web site sponsor.)

A work on the Web with print publication data

Owens, Marc. "Theories of Character Interpretation." *Literary Insights Journal* 7.4 (2007): 21-24. *New Interpretations of Classic Literature Online Journal*. Web. 5 June 2008.

Article from a university Web site

Cascardi, Anthony J. *Ideologies of History in the Spanish Golden Age*. University Park: Pennsylvania State UP, 1997. *Penn State Romance Studies*. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.

Online scholarly journal

William, Andrew P. "The Center of Attention: Theatricality and the Restoration Fop." *Early Modern Literary Studies* 4.3 (1999): n. pag. Web. 10 July 1999.

Google Books:

Wyatt, Kenneth A. "Intuitive Character Development." *Foundations of Literary Writing*. N.p.: Delmar, 2002. 587-628. *Google Book Search*. Web. 3 Dec. 2007.

► Anthologies (Print)

What is an anthology? An anthology is a collection of like items published together as a collection, such as a book of literary criticism essays. Most items in literary databases were published elsewhere previously, usually in print form.

The example below cites an article that was published in a print journal entitled *Xavier Review* before being published in a print anthology entitled *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*. It was then reproduced in the Literature Criticism Online database.

Holladay, Hillary. "Narrative Space in Ann Petry's *Country Place*." *Xavier Review* 16.1 (1996): 21-35. Rpt. in *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*. Ed. Linda Pavlovski and Scott Darga. Vol. 112. Detroit: Gale, 2002. 356-62. *Literature Criticism Online*. Web. 24 Sept. 2012.

Print anthology essay originally published in a book (series) – Gale Anthology Series

Freibert, Lucy M. "Control and Creativity: The Politics of Risk in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*." *Critical Essays on Margaret Atwood*. Ed. Judith McCombs and G.K. Hall, 1988. 280-91. Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Jeffrey Hunter et al. Vol. 135. Detroit: Gale, 2001. 13-18. Print.

Print anthology essay originally published in a journal (series) – Gale Anthology Series

Malmgren, Carl D. "On the Road Reconsidered: Kerouac and the Modernist Tradition." *Ball State University Forum* 30 (1989): 59-67. Rpt. in *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*. Ed. Linda Pavloski and Scott Darga. Vol. 117. Detroit: Gale, 2002. 204-09. Print.

Individual print anthology (not a series)

Bowman, Joel P. "The Grierson Clan in Faulkner." *Perspectives on William Faulkner's Characters*. Ed. Al Williams. New Haven: Yale UP, 1994. 162-95.

CITATIONS IN THE TEXT OF THE PAPER

What does an in-text citation contain?

- **The name of the author(s).** This information can be part of the sentence or included in parentheses with location information (if provided).
- **Location information for the portion used.** Writers must include a page number, paragraph number, or section number when citing, paraphrasing, or otherwise using a portion of a document unless the document has no such locating information.

Parenthetical citations in prose:

Content quoted from Page 6 of a source.

According to Smith, the story “lacks dramatic tension” (6). (Author cited in sentence.)

The story “lacks dramatic tension” (Smith 6). (Author cited in parentheses with page number.)

Content paraphrased from Page 3 of a source

Beginning in about 2000, television programming featured more reality-oriented content and less scripted content (Hall 3).

Parenthetical citations in poetry:

Poetry (in general)

The locating information consists of line numbers. Include the words *line* or *lines* in the first instance to establish that you are using lines to identify the location. (See the example below.) Thereafter, you can use just the numbers.

In “Marching Song,” Nesbit declares, “Our arms and hearts are strong for all who suffer wrong . . .” (line 11).

Poetry, brief selections

Individual lines are separated by slashes if the quotation contains two or three lines of poetry.

Reflecting on the “incident” in Baltimore, Cullen concludes, “Of all the things that happened there / That’s all that I remember” (11-12).

Poetry, longer selections (FOUR or more poetic lines) (double-spaced)

Elizabeth Bishop’s “In the Waiting Room” is rich in evocative detail:

It was winter. It got dark
early. The waiting room
was full of grown-up people,
arctics and overcoats,
lamps and magazines. (6-10)

Parenthetical citations in drama/plays:

Plays generally use act numbers, scene numbers, and line numbers. If the play is not divided into acts or scenes, the line numbers are the only locating information.

One Shakespearean protagonist seems resolute at first when he asserts, “Haste me to know’t, that I, with wings as swift / As meditation . . . / May sweep to my revenge” (Ham. 1.5.35-37), but he soon has second thoughts; another tragic figure, initially described as “too full o’ th’ milk of human kindness” (Mac. 1.5.17), quickly descends into horrific slaughter.

FORMATTING/TYPING THE PAPER

Font. Times New Roman 12 pt.

Hanging indent. To accomplish the type of indent shown in the examples here, type the works-cited entry, put the cursor before the first word, and press CTRL-T. Lines except the first in a works-cited list entry should be indented ½ inch.

Header. The header has your last name and page number and is on all of your pages. It is located in the upper right corner of the paper. Consult "Help" on your word processor if you do not know how to do a header.

Line spacing. All content is double-spaced.

Margins. One inch all around.

Order of works-cited list entries. Alphabetize entries by the first item (last name of the first author, or the title in the absence of an author).

Title page. "A research paper does not need a title page. Instead, beginning one inch from the top of the first page and flush with the left margin, type your name, your instructor's name, the course number, and the date on separate lines, double-spacing between the lines. Double-space again and center the title. Double-space also between the lines of the title, and double-space between the title and the first line of the text. Do not italicize or underline your title, put it in quotation marks or boldface, or type it in all capital letters." **Verbatim from *MLA Handbook* online.**

OTHER INFORMATION

Abbreviations (Common)

e.g. means *for example*. He reads the Romantic poets, e.g., Shelley, Keats, Blake.

i.e. means *that is*. He reads what he likes, i.e., comic books.

Amer. America, American

Assn. Association

Coll. College

Ed. Editor, edition, edited by

et al. means *and others*. Williams et al. contend that Smith's interpretation is off the mark.

Months. Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

No. Issue number.

N.p., n.p., and n.d. See *Missing Information* section.

qtd. in. Material quoted from another source. **Example:** Poe asserts "that Hawthorne has 'the purest style, the finest taste, the most available scholarship, the most delicate humor, the most touching pathos, the most radiant imagination'" (qtd. in Korb).

Rpt. Reprint, reprinted, reprinted by

UP University Press or, e.g., U of Texas P (University of Texas Press)

Vol. Volume of a book or journal.

Article and Publication Titles (includes Italics vs. Quotation Marks)

Capitalization of titles. The first word, last word, and all major words must be capitalized. Capitalize both words in a hyphenated term. Capitalize proper nouns and proper adjectives, such as *America* and *American*, respectively.

Titles. Italicize the names of books, plays, poems published as books, pamphlets, periodicals (newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and journals), Web sites, online databases, films, television and radio broadcasts, compact discs, audiocassettes, record albums, dance performances, operas and other long musical compositions.

Quotation marks. Use quotation marks for the titles of articles published within larger books, chapters of books, and pages in Web sites.

Subtitles. Put a colon (:) after the main title and then include the subtitle. For a book, if the subtitle appears on the title page, it should be included in the citation. The first word after the colon should be capitalized. **Example:** *Ancient Greek and Roman Rhetoricians: A Biographical Dictionary*.

Authors

► In-text Citations and Works-Cited Entries

No author name provided. (Use the full title if it is short. If it is long, use the first significant word of the title.)

International espionage was as prevalent as ever in the 1990s (“Decade”).

“Decade of the Spy.” *Newsweek* 7 Mar. 1994: 26-27. Print.

One author (verbatim quote)

According to Townsend, Medieval Europe was a place both of “raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion” and of “traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns if not cities, and active markets in grain” (10).

Medieval Europe was a place both of “raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion” and of “traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns if not cities, and active markets in grain” (Townsend 10).

Townsend, Robert M. *The Medieval Village Economy*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993. Print.

Two authors (verbatim quote)

Others, like Broer and Halland (210-11), have expressed the opposite view.

Others have expressed the opposite view (Broer and Halland 210-11).

Broer, Lawrence R., and Gloria Halland. *Hemingway and Women: Female Critics and the Female Voice*.

Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama P, 2002. Print.

Three authors (paraphrased)

Booth, Colomb, and Williams (15) have expressed the opposite view.

Other scholars have expressed the opposite view (Booth, Colomb, and Williams 15).

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 2nd ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. Print.

More than three authors (paraphrased)

Plag et al. have expressed the opposite view (33).

Others have expressed the opposite view (Plag et al. 33).

Plag, Ingo, et al. *Introduction to English Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton, 2007. Print.

► Miscellaneous Author Rules

Author information. Do not use degrees like *Ph.D.* or titles like *Sir* or *Dr.* Do use name designations like *Jr.*, *Sr.*, and Roman numerals.

Order of authors in citation. List multiple authors in the same order as they appear in the source.

Order of entries in the works-cited list. Entries are alphabetized by the last name of the first (or only) author. Names of any additional authors are in normal order. (See works-cited examples.)

Dates

Date not available. If a date is not available, the abbreviation *n.d.* should be placed where the date would be located.

Voice of the Shuttle. Ed. Alan Liu. Dept. of Eng., U of California, Santa Barbara, n.d. Web. 8 Aug. 2007.

(The abbreviation *n.d.* indicates that the date of the creation or latest update of the item was not provided. The Aug. date is the retrieval date, which should always be known to the researcher who found the item.)

Books (print and electronic). Look on the title page and the copyright page.

Date of access (Internet). This date is the date you accessed the material. If you printed an article, sometimes it will have a printed date provided by the browser.

Date of creation or latest update (Internet). The date of newest update should be used when it is provided. If no date is provided, type *n.d.* where the date would appear in the citation if available.

Dates are written in this style in MLA. 6 Nov. 2012.

Format. Day, month, year. Example: 12 Jan. 2013

Definitions

AC Library databases. Electronic collections of high-quality information.

Anthology. A collection of like works published together in a collection, e.g., *Short Story Criticism*.

Citation. A citation gives credit to the source using a particular style like MLA.

Edition. "One of a series of printings of the same book, newspaper, etc., each issued at a different time and differing from another by alterations, additions, etc." **Examples:** 4th ed., Rev. ed.

Citation for definition: "Edition." *Random House Dictionary*. N.p.: Random House, 2013. *Dictionary.com*. Web. 17 Jan. 2014.

Editor. An editor may assemble a group of literary criticism articles and publish them together as a collection. The editors' names are on the title page of a book.

HTML documents (database articles). In a library database HTML articles look like Web pages. They do not have "real" page numbers. They often have designations assigned by the browser, such as *Page 1 of 3*.

PDF documents (database articles). These articles are scanned into a database from a print publication, such as a medical journal. The articles have "real" page numbers that must be included in citations.

Parenthetical citation. It is an annotation in the text of the paper that refers readers to a works-cited list entry. It contains author information (or a shortened form of the title when no author name is provided) plus locating information for the portion used.

Works-cited list. A list of sources (bibliography) that appears at the end of an article or research paper. It contains the sources used to write the item. MLA calls it the *Works Cited*.

Editors/editions

9th edition with three editors:

Chopin, Kate. "The Storm." *Literature for Composition: Essays, Stories, Poems, and Plays*. Ed. Sylvan Barnet, William Cain, and William Burto. 9th ed. Boston: Longman, 2011. 71-75. Print.

Database article. Revised edition. Publisher not provided. Page numbers not provided:

Madden, David. "A Rose for Emily." *Masterplots II*. Rev. ed. N.p.: Salem, 2004. N. pag. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. Short Story Ser. 14 Feb. 2007.

Indirect quotation: Quoting a work quoted in another work

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 2: 450).

Works Cited

Boswell, James. *The Life of Johnson*. Ed. George Birkbeck Hill and L. F. Powell. 6 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1934-50. Print.

Italics

Italicize words and letters that are being referred to as words and letters.

Example: The word *albatross* probably derives from the Spanish and Portuguese word *alcatraz*.

This device is used many times in this handout.

Examples:

The abbreviation *n. pag.* means the work has no page numbers.

Hard-copy printouts can have designations such as *Page 1 of 3* printed on them.

Foreign words. In general, italicize foreign words used in an English text. **Example:** The Renaissance courtier was expected to display *sprezzatura*, or nonchalance, in the face of adversity.

Titles. Italicize the names of books, plays, poems published as books, pamphlets, periodicals (newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and journals), Web sites, online databases, films, television and radio broadcasts, compact discs, audiocassettes, record albums, dance performances, operas and other long musical compositions.

Page Numbers

Page numbers not available. Many electronic sources do not have "real" page numbers. Only PDF documents, which are scanned in from the original print publication, have real page numbers. Hard-copy printouts may have a designation like *Page 1 of 3*, but this designation does not reflect the page numbering of the original document. Paragraph numbers or section numbers can be used if present.

Examples: Place *N. pag.* where the page numbers would be if they had been available. It is capitalized when it appears after a period and not capitalized when it is after a colon.

Wallace, James M. "Faulkner's 'A Rose for Emily.'" *Explicator* 50.2 (1992): n. pag. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 16 Jan. 2013.

Michelangelo. *The Sistine Chapel*. New York: Wings, 1992. N. pag. Print.

Paragraph or section numbers. Some articles provide paragraph or section numbers. Use these numbers only if they are provided by the source. Do not do the counting yourself. **Example:** Chase claims that "Everson has belittled Blake's writing in numerous articles" (par. 41). The Committee on Scholarly Editions provides a bibliography on the theory of textual editing (sec. 4).

In-text citations for publication with no page numbers, paragraph numbers, or section numbers. When page numbers are not provided, they must be omitted from in-text citations. The author's name should be included as part of the sentence to help the reader identify the source in the works-cited list.

Abbreviations for page or pages. Do not use *p.* or *pp.* as abbreviations in citations in MLA style.

Page number ranges. Page ranges indicate that a section of a larger work is being cited. MLA minimizes repetition. Following are examples from the MLA handbook of page-number ranges. 2-3, 10-12, 21-48, 89-99, 96-101, 103-04, 395-401, 923-1,003, 1,003-05, 1,608-774.

Page numbers in parenthetical citations. Page numbers, if provided, must be used when you quote content verbatim, paraphrase it, or summarize it. Omit page numbers if they are not provided by the source. It is usually best to work the author's name into the sentence of your paper.

Publisher and publication information (books)

Publication place not available. Place *N.p.* where the publication place would be in the works-cited entry.

Madden, David. "A Rose for Emily." *Masterplots II*. Rev. ed. N.p.: Salem, 2004. N. pag. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. Short Story Ser. 14 Feb. 2007.

Publisher not available. Place *n.p.* where the publisher name would be.

Madden, David. "A Rose for Emily." *Masterplots II*. Rev. ed. New York: n.p., 2004. N. pag. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. Short Story Ser. 14 Feb. 2007.

City of publication. Get the publication information from the title page. It is not necessary to list a state or country. If several cities are listed, use the first one.

Publisher name(s) missing. If no publisher is provided, put *n.p.* where the name would appear.

Publisher surnames. Use the surname for publishing companies with a person's name (e.g., *Norton* for W.W. Norton). Use the first surname when there are two surnames (e.g., *Thomson* for *Thomson-Gale*).

University presses. Omit the word *Press* except for university presses. For university presses, use *U* for *university* and *P* for *press* (e.g., *Yale UP* for Yale University Press, *U of Texas P* for *University of Texas Press*).

Omit these descriptive words from publisher information. *A, an, the, Co., Corp., Inc., Ltd., House, Publishers, Books,* and *Press*. Substitute *P* in the names of university presses.

Volume and issue numbers

Books. Books can have volume numbers but not issue numbers.

Journals. Use volume numbers and issue numbers. A publication may or may not have an issue number. Do not use volume numbers or issue numbers for periodicals that are not scholarly journals. See the relevant examples.

Format. *36.1* = Vol. 36, Issue 1. The inclusion of an issue number identifies this publication as a journal.

Please contact Jana Comerford if you believe you have spotted an error.
jkcomerford@actx.edu
371-5466

Samantha Baldwin

Professor Greene

English 425

15 May 2009

Marriage as a Dubious Goal in *Mansfield Park*

Jane Austen's 1814 novel *Mansfield Park* begins and ends with the topic of marriage. In this regard it seems to fit into the genre of the courtship novel, a form popular in the eighteenth century in which the plot is driven by the heroine's difficulties in attracting an offer from the proper suitor. According to Katherine Sobba Green, the courtship novel "detailed a young woman's entrance into society, the problems arising from that situation, her courtship, and finally her choice (almost always fortunate) among suitors" (2). Often the heroine and her eventual husband are kept apart initially by misunderstanding, by the hero's misguided attraction to another, by financial obstacles, or by family objections. The overcoming of these problems, with the marriage of the newly united couple, forms the happy ending anticipated by readers. Sometimes, as in a Shakespearean comedy, there are multiple marriages happily celebrated; this is the case, for example, in Austen's own *Pride and Prejudice*.

Despite the fact that *Mansfield Park* ends with the marriage of the heroine, Fanny Price, to the man whom she has set her heart on, her cousin Edmund Bertram, the novel expresses a strong degree of ambivalence toward the pursuit and achievement of marriage, especially for women. For Fanny, marriage may be a matter of the heart, but for other characters in the novel, marriage—or the desire for marriage—is precipitated by, among other things, vanity, financial considerations, boredom, the desire to "disoblige" one's family (Austen 5) or simply to escape from it, and social and parental pressure to form a suitable match.

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