According to the *MLA Handbook*, you "must indicate to your readers not only what sources you used in writing the paper but also what you derived from each source and where in the work you found the material" (214). This requires that you "distinguish between what [you] borrow and what [you] create" (MLA 54) in order to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism comes from the Latin word *plagiarius* meaning "kidnapper" and is "to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source" (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*).

**Rules for Parenthetical Citations:**

Parenthetical citations in your text must point directly to your *Works Cited*. Even if you paraphrase the wording, you should give credit to the source. If you mention the author (or the title if no author) in the text, you need to include only the page number in parenthesis after the information (in quotations or rephrased) and before the period. If you do not mention the author (or title) in the text, you need to include both the author’s last name (or the title’s first word) and the page number in parenthesis. If you have indented the quote, the citation follows the period.

Examples:  Robert Townsend stated that "..." (10). -- OR -- It was stated that "..." (Townsend 10).

It was stated that: ........................................... (Tales of History 5-6)

**Rules for MLA Works Cited**

- List all sources in a Works Cited Sheet in alphabetical order by author’s last name or, if no author, by title, but ignore leading articles (A, An, or The) when you put it alphabetical, e.g. *The Handmaid’s Tale* would be alphabetically under Handmaid’s.

- Capitalize all significant words in the title and subtitle.

- Italicize all titles of books, periodicals, films and media items, databases, and web sites.

- If the date is not listed, use n.d.; if the page is not listed, use n. pag.; if no publisher, use N. p.

- Put the medium (print, web, DVD) at the end and, if electronic or web, add the access date.

- Only include the URL of a web source if the reader will not be able to otherwise locate the source.

- Use correct punctuation (periods, commas, semi-colons) and end each citation with a period.

- Indent the second and any subsequent line five spaces.

**Books (in Print and eBooks from an electronic resource):**

*Basic Form* — Author/Editor Name/Corporate Name (lastname, firstname). *Title of the Book* (italicized). Edition (if not first edition). Publisher location: Publisher, Publication year. Publication Medium (Print). OR *Title of Electronic Resource (italicized).* Publication Medium (Web). Date of access.


**Essays/Chapters/Criticism in Books with or without Editor (in print or from an electronic resource):**

*Basic Form* — Author of Essay Name. "Title of Essay." *Title of the Book* (italicized). Ed. and Editor Name. Publisher location: Publisher, Publication date. Page Number(s). Publication Medium (Print). OR *Title of Electronic Resource (italicized).* Publication Medium (Web). Date of access.


Magazine and Newspaper Articles (in print or from an electronic resource):

**Basic Form --** Author Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Date of issue: page-page (or section and page for newspaper). Publication Medium (Print) **OR** *Title of Electronic Resource* (italicized), Publication Medium (Web). Date of access.

**Examples --**


Scholarly Articles (including in an anthology or literary criticism) and in print or from an electronic resource:

**Basic Form --** Author Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Volume.Issue (Date of issue): page-page. Publication Medium (Print). **OR** *Title of Electronic Resource* (italicized). Publication Medium (Web). Date of access.

**Examples --**


DVDs, Videocassettes, Films, Media on Demand, and YouTube:

**Basic Forms --** *Title* (italicized). Dir. followed by director's name. Perf. followed by performers. Other relevant roles followed by names. Original copyright year. Distributor, Year. Publication Medium (DVD, VHS, Film). **OR** *Title of Electronic Resource* or *Web site*. Publication Medium (Web). Date of access.

**Note:** If you are citing the contribution of a particular individual (director, performer, writer), begin with his/her name.

**Examples --**


Web Sites:

**Basic Form --** Author (if any). "Title of page" (if part of a larger site). *Title of Web Site* (italicized). Publisher or sponsor of web site (or N.p.), Date of publication or update (or n. d.). Publication Medium (Web). Date of access. <URL if necessary or required by your instructor> (but not required by MLA).

**Examples --**

