

Citing Sources using MLA 8th Edition

Citing sources has never been easier than with MLA 8! Learn the core elements which are components of every citation and the punctuation which follows each core element, and you will be able to create a correct citation for any type of source.

- **Standard citation format** applied to **ALL source types** which means it is no longer necessary to learn how to cite individual types of sources (i.e. books, databases, web pages, images, etc.)
- Focus on **Core Elements** in citation no matter the source type.
- Core Elements = **elements that are common to all source types**. Core elements go in a **specific order**.
- Learn the order for core elements, the punctuation which follows each item, and apply it to all source types.

Core Element Order



- Understanding the concept of **Containers** is essential as **containers** are what **“hold” the source**.
- **Example of single container:** a poem typically is part of an anthology of poetry. The poem would be the source and the poetry anthology would be the container.

Frost, Robert. “Mending Hour.” *Committed to Memory: 100 Best Poems to Memorize*, edited by Hollander, Books & Co. Turtle Point, 1996, p.163.

- A **source can reside in multiple containers** - **all** of which **need to be included** in the citation.
- **Example of multiple containers:** a magazine article (a source) is published in a specific magazine such as *Newsweek* (a container). We access the article via the *Points of View database* (a container). The **title of the magazine article** is the **source** and **both *Newsweek* AND *Points of View*** are the **containers** - **both** of which **must be included** in the citation.

Avlon, John. "Welcome to the Twilight Zone." *Newsweek*, vol. 160, no. 21, 19 Nov. 2012, p.15.

Points of View,

search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f6h&AN=83384435&site=ehost-live.

Additional Changes in MLA 8

- The abbreviations vol. and no. have been added to magazine and academic journal citations. This is in addition to including a specific publication date.
- Publisher information is no longer required for magazines and academic journals. It is also not included if the name of a web site and its publisher are the same.
- City of publication has been eliminated from print resources.
- No longer need to identify the type of source - web, print, MP3, etc.
- Use p. or pp. in works cited entries, but not for in-text citations.
- When including the URL for a website or article, do not include the http:// or https://.

Works Cited Page Format

- **Center** the words **Works Cited** at the top of the page.
- The sources used in your paper must appear in **Alphabetical Order** by first core element (ex: author's last name) on your works cited page.
- Do **not number** the sources.
- When the documentation for a source requires more than one line, **indent** every line after the first ½ inch.
- Be sure every entry ends with a **period**.
- **Double space** every entry on the Works Cited page. (not just between the entries)

Core Elements

Core Element	Explanation and Details
Author.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last name, first name. • For three or more authors do et al. after first author • Skip if there is no author indicated • Pseudonyms such as online screen name may be used • Corporate authors may be used, but if same as publisher, then use name as publisher - not author.
Title of Source.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use standard capitalization and punctuation • Parts go in "...", wholes are <i>italicized</i> • "If use an entire chapter or section of a book." • <i>If are citing an entire book</i>

Container One

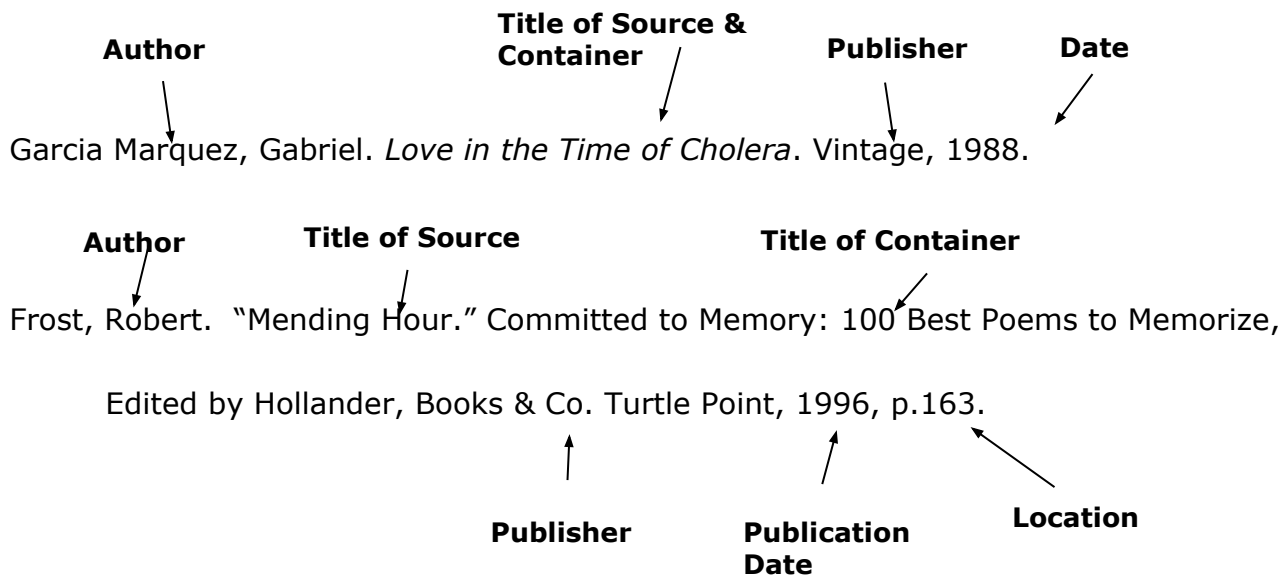
Title of Container,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titles of books, periodicals, magazines, newspapers, websites, etc. • Use standard capitalization and punctuation • <i>Italicize</i>
Other Contributors,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editors, performer, creator, • Use Edited by
Version,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editions go here • Use abbreviation ed. • Example: 7th ed, • Likely not to be found for a database or website
Number,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vol., no., is correct format • Mostly likely included with some books and journal articles • Rarely included for website • Season or episode numbers if TV or media
Publisher,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of publisher, • Typically not included for journal article/database • For website include if different from title of container
Publication Date,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book and website use most current date given • Use inverted format - Day Month Year, • Abbreviate months except for May, June and July • If website with no date, use date of access • Use actual source date - not a date from Google, Amazon etc.

Location,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For page numbers use p.for single page or pp. for multiple pages • For urls, omit http:// or https:// • Use permanent URLs for articles from the databases (bottom of articles or bookmark links) Not address in address bar. • For websites use the URL for the page from which the information was taken.
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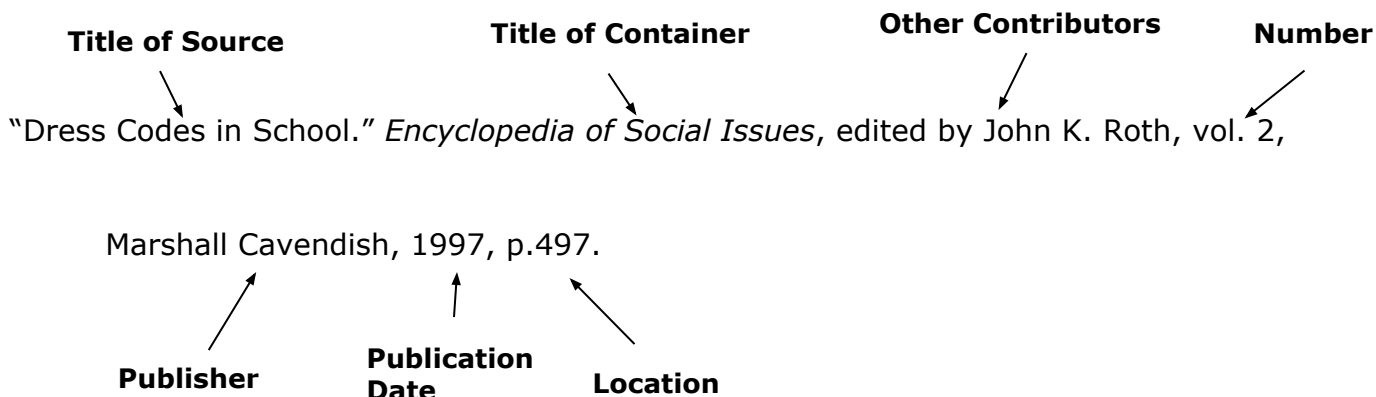
Container 2

When citing a second container, all available core elements are included in the same order as above. There will always be a second container for an article retrieved from a database. When adding a database to a citation, include these elements: title of container (name of database) and location (permanent URL for article).

Book Examples:



Reference Book Examples:



Author
Bonnie, Richard J.

Title of Source
"Legal Regulation of Drugs and Alcohol."

Title of Container
Encyclopedia of Drugs, Alcohol and Addictive Behavior, edited by Rosalyn Carson-Dewitt, 2nd ed, vol 2, Macmillian, 2014.

Other Contributors
Other Contributors

Version
Version

Number
Number

Publisher
Publisher

Publication Date
Publication Date

Personal Interview Example:

Person Interviewed
Smithson, Janice.

Interview Date
2 June 2018.

Website Examples:

Author
Miller, Sam.

Title of Source
"MLB Season 116 Recap: Things You'd Never Have Believed...Until Now."

Title of Container
ESPN,

Publication Date
ESPN Internet Ventures, 27 September 2018,

Publisher
[http://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/24801702/mlb-season-116-recap-things-never-believe-D-now.](http://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/24801702/mlb-season-116-recap-things-never-believe-D-now)

Location
Location

Title of Source
"Types of Symptoms of Eating Disorders."

Title of Container
Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders,

Publisher
National Eating Disorders,

Publication Date
April 2015,

Location
www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/general-information.

Title of Source
"Perchloric Acid."

Title of Container
The American Heritage Stedman's Medical Dictionary,

Publisher
Houghton Mifflin,

Publication Date
2009,

Title of Container
Dictionary.com,

Publication Date
2017,

Location
www.dictionary.com/browse/perchloric-acid?s=t.

Website Examples Cont:

Author **Title of Source** **Title of Container** **Publication Date**
Lincoln, Abraham. "Abraham Lincoln Quotes." *Brainy Quote*, 2017,

Author **Title of Source** **Title of Container** **Publication Date** **Title of Container**
Brooks, David. "This Time Will Be Different." *New York Times*, 22 March 2011, *Contemporary*
Quotations, American University, 2012. **Publication Date**
www.contemporaryquotations.org/quote/time-will-be-different.
Publisher **Location**

Author (U.S. Govt.) **Title of Source** **Title of Container**
NIH Stem Cell Information Home Page. In *Stem Cell Information*. National Institutes of Health,
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016, **Publication Date**
[//stemcells.nih.gov/info/basics.htm](http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/basics.htm). **Publisher**
Location

Modern American Poetry Website:

Author **Title of Source** **Title of Container**
Tate, Allen. "On 712 'Because I Could Not Stop for Death.'" *Reactionary Essays on Poetry and*
Ideas, 1936, *Modern American Poetry*, edited by Cary Nelson, Department of English,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2002, **Publication Date**
<http://www.modernamericanpoetry.org/criticism/allen-tate-712-because-i-could-not-stop-death>.
Location

Ebsco Database Examples

Authors → Minter, William and Michael Honey. **Title of Source** → "Dirt and Deeds in Mississippi: Film Highlights Long Threads in Civil Rights History. **Title of Container** → *Race and Poverty*, **Number** → vol 26, no.1, **Publication Date** → Jan-March 2017, **Location** → pp. 5-17.

Title of Container → *Points of View*, **Location** → search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=pwh&AN=122412828.

Author → Marfo, Amma. **Title of Source** → "Changing the Face of Social Justice Education: WIHE Interviews Jamie Piperato." **Title of Container** → *Women in Higher Education*, **Publication Date** → Dec. 2016, **Location** → pp.7-14. **Title of Container** → *Masterfile*, **Location** → doi:10.1002/whe.20382.

Title of Source → "Preface to 'How Have New Technologies Affected Media Ethics?'" **Title of Container** → *Media Ethics*, **Other Contributors** → edited by Noël Merino, **Publisher** → Greenhaven Press, **Publication Date** → 2013, **Location (series)** → *Current Controversies*. **Title of Container** → *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*, **Location** → link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ3010563137/OVIC?u=lom_accessmich&sid=OVIC&xid.

e-Books

e-Books from Ebsco Database (name of container two would change based on database used):

Authors → Hjardar, Kim, and Vegard Vike. **Title of Source/Container** → *Vikings at War*. **Version** → First English ed., **Publisher** → Casemate, **Publication Date** → 2016, *Ebsco*
eBooks High School Collection, **Title of Container 2** → **Location** → search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e862xna&AN=1468420&site=ehost-live.

e-Book on an e-reader:

Author → Gestern, Helene. **Title of Source/Container** → *The People in the Photo*. **Other Contributors** → Translated by Emily Boyce & Ros Schwartz,
Kindle Edition, Gallic Books, 2014.
Version → **Publisher** → **Publication Date**

e-Book Accessed Online (website):

Author → Poe, Edgar Allen. **Title of Source** → "The Goldbug." **Title of Container** → *Short Stories for English Courses*, **Other Contributors** → Edited by Rosa M.R. Mikels,
2004, Project Gutenberg, www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/5403/pg5403-images.html.
Publication Date → **Title of Container 2** → **Location**

Image Examples:

Unique things to keep in mind:

- If image has no title, then include a brief description of the image. Hover over the image with the mouse and typically a description will appear.
- Do not place this brief description in quotation marks.
- **If image was found via Google images, remember that Google images is not cited. Instead, you must go to the site where the image is actually located and use the information from the website which is hosting the image.** (3rd example)

Photographer/Creator of Image **Image Title** **Title of Container** **Publication Date**

Abdalluh, Hassan. "Young Syrian Refugee in Lebanon." *Business Insider*, 11 Sept. 2014,
www.businessinsider.com/the-countries-taking-syrias-refugees-2014-9. **Location**

Image Title **Title of Container** **Publication Date**

"Reeths-Puffer and Mona Shores Girls Soccer Players." *MLive Muskegon Sports*, 12 May 2012,
www.mlive.com/sports/muskegon/index.ssf/2012/05/muskegon-area_spring_sports_ri.html.

Image Title **Title of Container** **Publication Date**

"Opioid Epidemic Hits Pennsylvania Hard." *MST: Multisystemic Therapy*, 8 Dec. 2016,
info.mstservices.com/blog/opioid-epidemic-hits-pennsylvania-hard. **Location**

Video/TV Episode or Clip Examples

Websites such as *YouTube*, *TED* or *Discovery Streaming*

Author **Title of Source** **Title of Container** **Other Contributors** **Publication Date**

Hayes, Scooter. "The Dewey Decimal Rap." *YouTube*, alias is Melvil Dewey, 10 March 2009,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHUQb5xg7A. **Location**

Author **Title of Source** **Title of Container** **Publication Date**

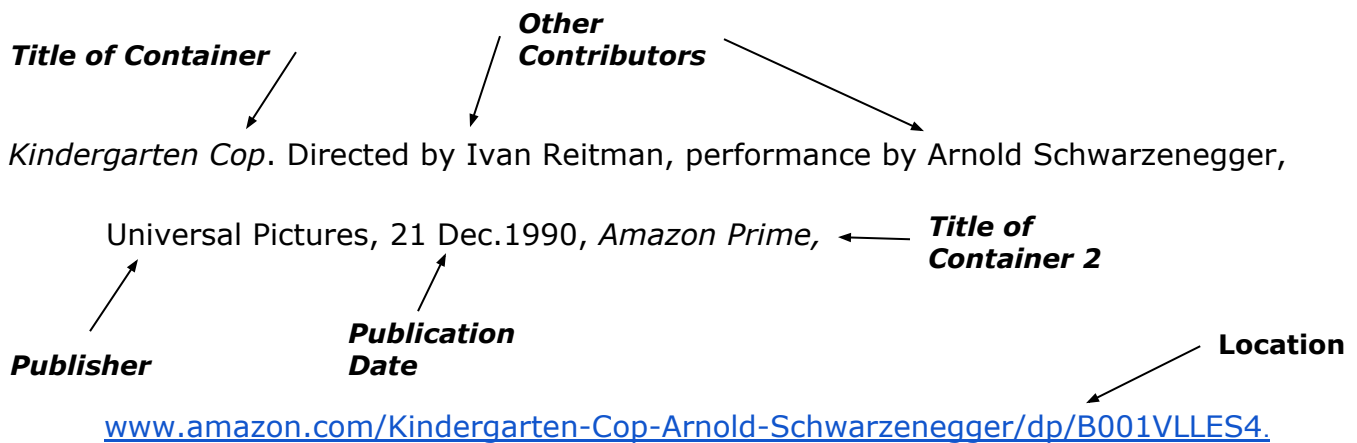
Raqib, Jamila, "The Secret to Effective Nonviolent Resistance." *TED*, Nov. 2015,
www.ted.com/talks/jamila_raqib_the_secret_to_effective_nonviolent_resistance. **Location**

Title of Source **Title of Container** **Publisher**

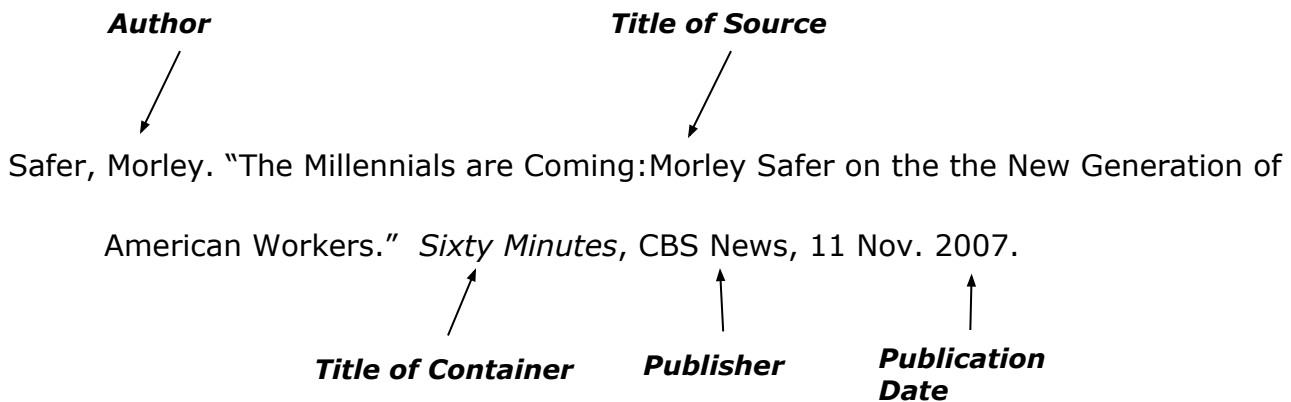
Will New Tools Help Facebook Users Get the Facts on Fake News?. *The PBS NewsHour*, NewsHour
 Productions, 2017, Discovery Education, www.discoveryeducation.com.

Publication Date **Title of Container** **Location**

Database Example: (Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Prime, etc.)



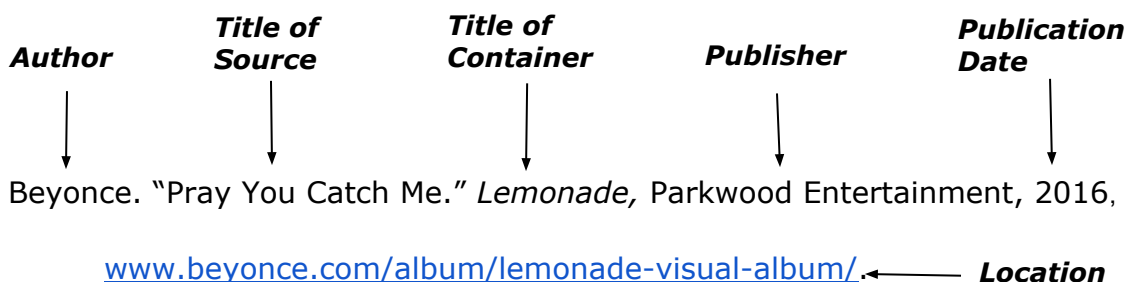
Standard TV or Video example:



Song, Album or Lyrics

Music can be cited multiple ways. Basically it depends on the container from which you accessed the music or lyrics (ex: Spotify, Album/CD or Lyrics site)

Music Accessed Online



Music Accessed via a CD

Author **Title of Source** **Title of Container** **Publisher** **Location**
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ **Publication Date**

Nirvana. "Smells Like Teen Spirit." *Nevermind*. Geffen, 1991.

Song Lyrics

Author **Title of Source** **Title of Container**

↓ ↓ ↓

Robson, Stephen Paul and Wayne Anthony Hector. "Feels Like Today." *Feels Like Today*,
2004. www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/rascalfatts/feelsliketoday.html ← **Location**
↓ **Publication Date**

Social Media Facebook

Author **Title of Source** **Title of Container** **Publication Date**

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Takei, George. "SNL has been a rite of passage." *Facebook*, 17 Oct. 2016, 9:30 PM,
www.facebook.com/georgehtakei/?hc_ref=NEWSFEED&fref=nf#. ← **Location**

Twitter

Author **Title of Source**

↓ ↓

@joycevalenza (Valenza, Joyce). "Library Hoots: Encouraging Book Returns with Library Memes!"
Twitter, 17 Oct. 2016, 5:20 AM, ← **Publication Date**

↓ **Title of Container** ↓ **Location**

twitter.com/joycevalenza/status/787987126461861888?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw.

e-Mail

Author **Title of Source** **Location** **Publication Date**

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Biggs, Debra. "MeL Minute: The Great Michigan Reads and MeL." Received by Joan Vincent, 1 June
2017.

Parenthetical Documentation

As a writer, it is necessary to include parenthetical (or in text) documentation within a paper so readers know when information has been used from an outside source. Parenthetical documentation corresponds directly to a source included on the works cited page. In other words, for every in text citation in the paper, there must be a corresponding entry on the works cited page. Multiple parenthetical citations can refer to a single source on the works cited page.

Remember that all information, ideas, facts, statistics, graphics, images, etc., that are not originally yours or “common knowledge” must be parenthetically documented. This includes information which is being directly quoted, information which you are paraphrasing, as well as information you are putting into your own words. Parenthetical references within the body of the paper must clearly and specifically match sources listed on the works cited page.

In most instances the author’s last name and page reference are enough to identify the source from which the cited information was borrowed. (Patterson 183-85).

Examples:

Quote: “The study of comparative literature takes off from the idea of humanity” (Readings 6).

Partial Quote: Medieval Europe was a place both of “raids, pillages, slavery and extortion” as well as the birthplace of early cities (Townsend 10).

Paraphrase: International spying was a popular government activity in the 1990’s (Jones 45).

Author’s name included in text: In his Autobiography Benjamin Franklin states that he prepared a list of thirteen virtues (135-7).

Additional guidelines for parenthetical reference:

- If there are multiple authors with the same last name, then include the person’s first initial in the citations. (A. Patterson 183-5).
- If there is more than one work by the same author used in a paper, then the specific title of the works used must be included. (Patterson, “Blow the Whistle 214-40). or (Freye, *Anatomy* 237).
- If no author exists, then use the title of the article or book with the corresponding page numbers. (“Fresco,” 1129).
- Works found on the Internet should be cited as close to print references as possible. Remember the purpose of parenthetical documentation is to point the reader to a specific item in the works cited page. Author’s last name is preferred, though if no author is given, then cite the title of the web page. Do not use the page numbers on the bottom of any print outs as these numbers are not page numbers. It is suggested that paragraph numbers be used. (Tanner, pars. 24-27). Notice that in this example, a comma separates the name from the pars.

- When using illustrative materials such as a photograph, map, chart, graphic etc., it should be labeled Figure, assigned an Arabic numeral, and given a title or caption. This information should appear directly below the illustration and have the same margins as the text of the paper. Ex: Fig. 1. Photo of child at play.
- When parenthetically citing a play, include the name of the play, the act number, the scene number and the lines. (Romeo and Juliet 4.1.35-37). Arabic numbers are preferred over Roman numerals. If the name of the play is included in the text of the paragraph, then it is acceptable to only include the act number, scene number and line numbers in the parenthetical documentation. (3.3.45-49). This assumes that Shakespeare's name is going to be worked into the text.
- Parenthetically documenting a poem is very similar. Make sure that the author's name is worked into the body of the paragraph or else is included in the parenthetical reference. Example: "For the Anniversary of My Death" begins with the suggestion that after death the soul starts a journey through time "Like the beam of a lightless star" (Merwin, line 5). Or another possibility: Gerard Manley Hopkins presents his view of life best in a single line: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God" (line 7). The poet's name is omitted from the parenthesis because it is specified in the text.

Research Terms

- Bibliographic Information: the information needed to document print, graphic, and online sources. Common elements including title, author, page number, publisher, date of publication, web address etc.
- Common Knowledge: facts that can be found in numerous places and are likely to be known by a lot of people. Example: John F. Kennedy was elected President of the United States in 1960. This is generally known information and does not need to be documented.
- Documentation: Correctly citing the bibliographic information about the source of a quotation, paraphrase or summary. Correct documentation has two parts: 1). The Works Cited page with all of the bibliographical information about each source. 2). The information included directly after a quotation or idea that refers to the page number and source where you found the idea or information (parenthetical citation).
- MLA Style: This is a style of documentation named for the Modern Language Association. It is one of two commonly accepted styles of documentation for research and writing. The other is APA developed by the American Psychological Association. At Reeths-Puffer High School we use MLA.
- Paraphrase: using someone else's ideas but putting them into your own words. This is the technique most frequently used when incorporating information from outside sources into your writing. Although you use your own words to paraphrase, you must still acknowledge the source of the information.

Works Cited

“Citing Social Media in MLA 8th Edition.” *Citing Sources MLA*, University Libraries

Western Michigan University, 8 Nov. 2016, libguides.wmich.edu/citing.

“Core Elements Overview.” *MLA 8th Edition Citation Guide: Home*, Valencia College, 4

Oct. 2016, libguides.valenciacollege.edu/mla8.

“MLA Formatting.” presented by Sarah Slachter & Corinne Cozzaglio Martinez, *Mary Idema*

Pew Library, Grand Valley State University, 2016,

<http://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1oHdI5m8BWPoowFwy3HUYQ2UAYgejwwpm4Csm8MhGw00/edit#slide=id.p>.

“MLA Formatting and Style Guide.” *OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab*, Purdue University,

2016, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.

MLA Handbook Eighth Edition. The Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

“What’s New in the Eighth Edition.” *The MLA Style Center: Writing Resources from the*

Modern Language Association, Modern Language Association of America,

2016, style.mla.org/whats-new/.