



The Writing Center

Directed Learning Activity



MLA 9th Edition Documentation

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructor: _____

Course: _____

About This DLA

Important Note

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before receiving credit for completion. Students are welcome to meet with a tutor if they need help, but please be aware that students might need a second appointment for review and signature in that case. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.

Learning Outcome

Properly documenting sources is an integral part of academic writing. This activity will familiarize you with formatting in-text and the works cited page using the MLA 9th edition.

Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Complete the activities below and be prepared to explain your answers when you meet with a tutor. Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

Understanding MLA Citation

The following handouts are linked this DLA: "[MLA 9th Edition Made Easy](#)", "[MLA Integrating Sources](#)," "[MLA Works Cited Page](#)." Read the "MLA: 9th Edition Made Easy" handout and using the handout as a resource, be prepared to complete the work below.

Activities

1. MLA Citation Review

Please answer the following questions:

How does MLA define a "container"?

Provide at least two examples of a "container."

What are the two "SUPER IMPORTANT RULES"?

2. Citation Practice

Now that you have a better understanding of MLA format, complete the in-text citation(s) and the works cited information for each of the examples below. For the in-text citations, you will need to provide the citation information and the closing punctuation. Refer to the handouts as needed.

Example #1

From an essay entitled "Split at the Root: An Essay on Jewish Identity" by Adrienne Rich. This was published in a compilation of essays edited by Phillip Lopate, *The Art of the Personal Essay*, published in paperback in 1995 by Anchor Books in New York. Both excerpts below are found on page 640 of the anthology. (The article is on pages 640–655.)

In-Text Citations

In writing about her split identity, Rich writes, "I was still trying to have it both ways: to be neither/nor, trying to live (with my Jewish husband and three children more Jewish in ancestry than I) in the predominantly Yankee academic world of Cambridge, Massachusetts" (_____)

Block Quote (for quotes more than 4 lines)

Rich struggled for a long period of time with her split identity:

In a long poem written in 1960, when I was thirty-one years old, I described myself as "Split at the root, neither Gentile nor Jew, Yankee nor Rebel." I was still trying to have it both ways: to be neither/nor, trying to live (with my Jewish husband and three children more Jewish in ancestry than I) in the predominantly Yankee academic world of Cambridge, Massachusetts (_____)

Works Cited (Create a Works Cited entry for this source):

Example #2

This is from an article that ran in a special issue on schizophrenia in *Newsweek* on March 11, 2002, called "The Schizophrenic Mind," by Sharon Begley, on pages 44–51. This reference is found on page 49.

In-Text Citation

Scientists still do not fully understand what causes schizophrenia, although they have begun to isolate brain activities involved in schizophrenic hallucinations. Still, even this is progress, since "identifying what happens in the brain during schizophrenic hallucinations is one step short of understanding why they happen" (_____)

- Works Cited (Create a Works Cited entry for this source):

Example #3

This is from the homepage for the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing. The title for this particular page is "Careers in Science Writing." No date is given on this page or the homepage. The page was accessed September 7, 2007. The URL is <http://www.casw.org/careers.htm>.

- In Text-Citation (from the Second Paragraph)

Unlike reporters on other assignments, the science reporter seldom writes the same story twice. Just as each scientific development is a discovery of something the scientists had not known before, each science story is about something neither the reporter nor his/her reader knew before (_____)

- Works Cited (Create a Works Cited entry for this source):

□ 3. Review

Go to <https://mtsac2.mywconline.com> and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](#) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the "Walk-in" list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, discuss your in-text and works cited page citations and focus on explaining your process and any difficulties you encountered when dealing with the various resources. In addition, discuss how you will apply this information to current and future assignments in your courses.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, access@mtsac.edu, (909) 274-4290.

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