Style and Formatting Guide For Parenthetical References

The following information is an adapted version of the style and formatting guidelines found in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (2009), published by the Modern Language Association. This sheet is to serve as a ready-reference; more information can be found in the handbook sections provided.

WHAT ARE PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES?

Parenthetical references, also called in-text citations, are references within the text of your paper to source material. Source material is text, either in print or on the Web, that you have chosen to include in your paper through directly quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing. Whenever you use the words, facts, or ideas of someone else, parenthetical references must be present. Following are some general guidelines regarding parenthetical references:

- Parenthetical references provide essential information about the sources that you are referring to within your paper so your reader can easily find more detailed publication information about each source on the Works Cited page;

- The way a source is cited within your text should reflect the style in which it is cited within the Works Cited list;

- Whatever appears first in the Works Cited entry (author's name or title of the work if there is no author) is how the source is referred to within your parenthetical reference;

- If the title of a work with no author appears in quotation marks or is italicized within the Works Cited entry, it should appear the same way within your parenthetical reference.

- The author's name (or title of the work if there is no author) and the page number(s) on which you found the information should always be included when employing the words, facts, or ideas of source material;

- In the absence of an author, the full title of the work (if brief) or an abbreviated form (beginning with the word by which it was alphabetized) should be included in the parenthetical reference;

- Paragraph numbers are substituted for page numbers when using a Web-based source only if the paragraphs within the source are already numbered.

- If you use the author's name within the actual text of your paper, then only the page number or section needs to appear in the parenthetical reference;

- If you refer to the same source more than once without referring to a different source in-between, then only the page number or section needs to appear within the parenthetical reference until another source is included;

- Periods are always placed outside of the parenthetical citation if it comes at the end of a sentence, except in the case of block quotations (see the MLA Direct Quotations skills sheet for more information on block quotations).

Examples

Print source (with an author—6.3)
Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

*Note: the page number is not preceded by p. or pg. but appears alone within the parentheses.

Print source (with no author—6.4.4)
The authors define a university's identity as a "purposeful presentation of itself in order to gain a positive image in the minds of the public" (*Institutional Image* 259).

*Note: the title of the book appears italicized within the parentheses to reflect how it appears in the Works Cited list.

Web source (with an author—6.4.1, 6.4.2)

One online film critic stated that *Fitzcarraldo* is "...a beautiful and terrifying critique of obsession and colonialism" (Garcia, par. 18).

*Note: the paragraph number is included for online sources in place of the page number if the original source includes paragraph numbers.

Web source (with no author—6.4.4)
Clinton confronted inner-city issues in a way that "inspired members of the African American community rather than scorned them" ("Mr. Clinton's").

*Note: the title of the online article appears in quotation marks within the parentheses to reflect how it appears in the Works Cited list.

Indirect Sources (6.4.7)

When you are quoting or paraphrasing a passage spoken or written by one scholar or writer that is referred to within the work of another scholar or writer (an indirect source), include the original author's name in the text and cite the author of the indirect source within the parenthetical reference as "quoted in". By crediting both the original author and the author of the indirect source, the reader can easily locate the quoted passage and you protect yourself in case the original author was misquoted. While the original source should always be used when available, quoting or paraphrasing the indirect source is acceptable. Here is an example, in which Fitzgerald is the original author of the quotation and Mallios is the author of the indirect source:

Fitzgerald describes the state of American fiction by explaining that " [e]ver since Irving's preoccupation with

necessity for an American background, for some miles of clear territory on which colorful variants might

pleasantly arise, the question of material has hampered the American writer" (qtd. in Mallios 360).

Work Cited

Mallios, Peter Lancelot. "Undiscovering the Country: Conrad, Fitzgerald, and Meta-National

Form." *MFS Modern Fiction Studies*. 47.2 (2001): 356-390. Web. 19 July 2010.

*Note: the phrase "qtd. in" is used to give credit to the indirect source in which the information appears.

**Note: Only the indirect source citation appears in the Works Cited.