

# Documentation and Plagiarism

# MLA

- Modern Language Association
- 2 types of citation:
  - In text
  - Bibliographic (Goes on Works Cited page)
- 2 recent changes:
  - Uses *italics* (instead of underlining) for independently published works (books, periodicals, movies, etc.).
  - At the end of each entry, you must indicate the medium (Print, Web, CD, DVD, Film, etc.) through which you retrieved the source.

# Bibliographic Citations

- Each entry's first line is flush with the left-hand margin. Any subsequent lines are indented.
- If the source has an author, that author's name (last name first, first name last) will be the first piece of information in the entry. If the source has an editor **instead** of an author, that name will be the first piece. If the source has an author **and** an editor, the author's name is the first piece. If the source has no author or editor, the title of the source holds the first position.
  - Ex. Author:  
**Davis, Justin A.** *Life on Mars*. New York: Norton, 1982. Print.
  - Ex. Editor, no author:  
**Collins, Donna, ed.** *Writing Styles and How to Teach Them*. Boston: Putnam, 2006. Print.
  - Ex. Author and Editor:  
**Austen, Jane.** *Emma*. **Ed. Tracey Smith.** New York: Oxford UP, 1999. Print.
  - Ex. no author or editor: (books ALWAYS have an author or editor)  
**"Raccoons."** *World Book Encyclopedia*. 1992 ed. Print.

# Bibliographic Citations (Cont.)

- The majority of sources you will use in this class will be books or online/database sources.
  - Pgs. 408-410 show how to bibliographically cite books.
  - Pg. 414 shows how to cite “Periodicals Accessed through an Online Library Service or Large Network Provider.” (i.e. Academic Search Complete or LexisNexis)
  - To cite websites, you should use either the guidelines found on the Purdue OWL or KnightCite.

# In-Text Citations

- Basic form=Author's last name and the page number
  - **(Rothenberg 59)**
- If there is no author, use all or part of the title of the source
  - **(“Money and Classes” 10)**
- Indirect citations (you use a quotation from person A that you obtained from a book or article written by person B, or you paraphrase such a quotation) require “qtd. in” before the author's name
  - **(qtd. in Klein 37)**
- If you identify the author in the text, you need to only include the page number in the citation
  - Joe Mason claims vegetables will kill us in the end **(80)**.
- If there is no page number, just put the author's last name (or the source's title if there is no author)
- Essentially, your in text citation will consist of whatever piece of information is FIRST on your bibliographic citation and the page number, if one exists.
- Pgs. 425-431 offer many examples of in-text citations

# Quotations and Paraphrases

- A quote:
  - Is a direct, word for word, restatement of something from a source
  - MUST be surrounded by quotation marks if fewer than 5 lines long
- A paraphrase:
  - Is someone else's words, ideas, etc. put into your own words
  - Does not require quotation marks
- **BOTH** require in-text citations to avoid plagiarism

# Handling Quotes #1

- Quotes fewer than five lines long should be set off with quotation marks. For longer quotes, omit the quotation marks and indent the material on the left side ONLY.
  - Short quote:  
Joe Mason still stands behind his notion that “someday the plants will fight back” (80).
  - Long quote:  
Joe Mason explains his theory:  
What people forget is that plants do have natural defense mechanisms. Look at roses and their thorns or pine trees and their needles. These defense mechanisms will continue to evolve until, instead of protecting plants from small animals, they can protect plants from large animals—namely humans. To pretend that the evolutionary patterns science has already discovered couldn’t possibly lead down such a road is to set ourselves up for an unexpected fall. We should never underestimate the planet’s flora. (80)

# Handling Quotes #2

- Quotations within Quotations:
  - Quotes within short quotes should be surrounded by single quotation marks:

The report further stated, “All great writing styles have their wellsprings in the personality of the writer. As Buffon said, ‘The style is the man’” (Duncan 49).

- Quotes within long quote should be surrounded by normal quotation marks:

Joe Mason explains his theory:

What people forget is that plants do have natural defense mechanisms. Look at roses and their thorns or pine trees and their needles. These defense mechanisms will continue to evolve until, instead of protecting plants from small animals, they can protect plants from large animals—namely humans. To pretend that the evolutionary patterns science has already discovered couldn’t possibly lead down such a road is to set ourselves up for an unexpected fall. We should never underestimate the planet’s flora. It’s like Darwin said, “Survival of the fittest.” The plants aim to be the fittest. (80)

# Handling Quotes #3

- A quote cannot stand alone; it requires context.
  - NO: “Fifteen percent of all car accidents are caused by cellphones” (Duncan 45).
  - YES: Robert Evans, head of the Texas DPS, estimates that “fifteen percent of all car accidents are caused by cellphones” (qtd. in Duncan 45).
- For specific information to be considered valid, it needs to come from some sort of authority. No one cares what Bob from next door estimates the rate of cellphone-related accidents is.
- Once you have initially stated a person’s expertise, you do not have to state it again.
  - Evans believes that estimate will “at least triple” within the next five years (qtd. in Duncan 45).
- When quoting from a source with no author given, introduce the quote with the name of the source.
  - Commenting on the problems that law enforcement personnel have in coping with computer crime, *Credit and Financial Management* magazine pointed out, “A computer crime can be committed in three hundredths of a second, and the criminal can be thousands of miles from the ‘scene,’ using a telephone” (“Computer Crime” 43).

# Handling Paraphrasing

- To properly paraphrase a source or portion of a source, the ENTIRE paraphrase (aside from the occasional single word) must be in your own words. You cannot include any of the source's original phrasing unless you put that phrasing in quotation marks.
  - Original: “One might contend, of course, that our country’s biological diversity is so great and the land is so developed—so criss-crossed with the works of man—that it will soon be hard to build a dam anywhere without endangering some species. But as we develop a national inventory of endangered species, we certainly can plan our *necessary* development so as to exterminate the smallest number possible” (Buckley 1144).
  - Paraphrase: America has so many kinds of plants and animals, and it is so built up, that in the near future we may pose a threat to some living thing just by damming some waterway. If, however, we knew which of our nation’s plants and animals were threatened, we could use this information to preserve as many species as we can (Buckley 1144).

# Where do the citations go?

- In-text citations are placed at the end of the quote or paraphrase.
  - In his famous and influential work *On the Interpretation of Dreams*, Sigmund Freud argues that dreams are the “royal road to the unconscious” (45), expressing in coded imagery the dreamer’s unfulfilled wishes through a processes known as the “dream work” (47). According to Freud, actual but unacceptable desires are censored internally and subjected to coding through layers of condensation and displacement before emerging in a kind of rebus puzzle in the dream itself (48).

# Avoiding Plagiarism

- Plagiarism occurs when a writer uses another person's material without properly acknowledging the debt. **Any information or idea taken from an outside source must be documented, regardless of the form it takes within your paper.**
- Types of information you do NOT have to document:
  - Common Knowledge
  - Your own conclusions
  - Facts found in many sources
  - Standard terms
- Any piece of information not set off with quotations marks must be in your own words. Otherwise, even though you name your source, you plagiarize by stealing the original phrasing.
- **Regardless of intention, plagiarism is unacceptable and has consequences**

# Plagiarism #1

- Original: “One might contend, of course, that our country’s biological diversity is so great and the land is so developed—so criss-crossed with the works of man—that it will soon be hard to build a dam anywhere without endangering some species. But as we develop a national inventory of endangered species, we certainly can plan our *necessary* development so as to exterminate the smallest number possible” (Buckley 1144).
- Plagiarism: Our country’s biological diversity is so great and the land is so developed that it will soon be hard to build a dam anywhere without endangering some species. But as we develop a national inventory of endangered species, we certainly can plan our necessary development so as to exterminate the smallest number possible.

# Plagiarism #2

- Original: “One might contend, of course, that our country’s biological diversity is so great and the land is so developed—so criss-crossed with the works of man—that it will soon be hard to build a dam anywhere without endangering some species. But as we develop a national inventory of endangered species, we certainly can plan our *necessary* development so as to exterminate the smallest number possible” (Buckley 1144).
- Plagiarism: Given the extensive diversity of species in America, development such as the construction of dams is likely to endanger some species, whether it is a rare plant, a species of frog, or a rare variety of fish. By creating a database of endangered species, however, we can facilitate a planning process that will place the minimum number of species at risk.

# Plagiarism #3

- Original: “One might contend, of course, that our country’s biological diversity is so great and the land is so developed—so criss-crossed with the works of man—that it will soon be hard to build a dam anywhere without endangering some species. But as we develop a national inventory of endangered species, we certainly can plan our *necessary* development so as to exterminate the smallest number possible” (Buckley 1144).
- Plagiarism: Our country’s biological diversity and the land so developed that in the near future we may pose a threat to some creature whenever we construct a dam. By developing a national inventory of endangered species, however, we can plan necessary development so as to preserve as many species as possible (Buckley 1144).

# Plagiarism-phobia

- Sometimes students, in their attempts to avoid plagiarism, take things a little too far. The majority of your paper should be written by YOU. If almost every piece of your paper is followed by an in-text citation, then you haven't really written a paper. You've just copied and pasted other people's work. Good writing involves the synthesis of a student's own ideas with the ideas of others.