

# DOCUMENTATION . . . HOW?

In academic research papers and in any other writing that borrows information from sources, the borrowed information must be clearly documented. Formal documentation generally takes one of three styles: The Chicago Style (Turabian), MLA (Modern Language Association), and APA (American Psychological Association). Each of the styles are distinctive and vary from using in-text citations, endnotes or footnotes. English and history classes at Lake Forest High School usually use the MLA style, while the social sciences, like psychology, use the APA style.

## IN-TEXT CITATIONS

### MLA Style

The MLA method for citations directs the writer to list the source at the end of the sentence that contains information that needs to be cited. This is called an in-text citation. This method usually includes listing the author's last name and page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence where the information is being used. If, however the author is stated in the text then only the page number is required in parenthesis. If the author has more than one work that is being cited in the paper, the first key word from the title must be included. See the following examples.

#### **Example of author and page number in parenthesis.**

Although the baby chimp lived only a few hours, Washoe signed to it before it died (Davis 42).

#### **Example of using only the page number if the author is stated in the text**

Flora Davis reports that a chimp at the Yerkes Primate Research Center “has combined words into new sentences that she was she was never taught” (67).

#### **Example of using the author, first word of title, and page number. This is necessary when the writer is using more than one work by the same author.**

It is reported that a chimp at the Yerkes Primate Research Center “has combined words into new sentences that she was never taught” (Davis, *Eloquent* 67).

#### **Example of Unknown Author – use the first word of the title and the page number**

It is reported that a chimp at the Yerkes Primate Research Center “has combined words into new sentences that she was never taught” (*Eloquent* 67).

#### **Example for a verse of a play – list the act, scene, and line numbers. Use Arabic numerals unless directed otherwise.**

In his famous advice to the players, Hamlet defines the purpose of theater, “whose end, both at the first and now, was and is, to hold, as ‘twere, the mirror up to nature” (3.2.21-23)

**Example for a poem, cite the part (if there are a number of parts) and the line numbers.**

When Homer’s Odysseus came to the hall Circe, he found his men “mild / in her soft spell, fed on her drug of evil” (10.209-11)

**Example of a work in an anthology – use the last name of the author of the work, not the editor. Also include the page number in the parentheses.**

At the end of Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour,” Mrs. Mallard drops dead upon learning that her husband is alive. In the final irony of the story, doctors report that she had died of a “joy that kills” (25).

**Example of using a multivolume work – if more than one volume is cited in the paper then you must indicate the author’s last name, the volume being used, and the page number.**

(Johnson, vol 2: 279)

**Example of a corporate author – treat the same as the author above**

(Johnson, vol 2: 279)

**Example of two or more authors – if your source has more than one author, include the author’s first name followed by “et al” which is Latin for “and others.”**

(Doe et al. 137)

**Example citation of two or more works in the same parenthetical citation – separate each author by a semi-colon**

(Desmond 229; Linden 173)