MLA Who?

Citing Your Sources Correctly

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MLA Stands For the Modern Language Association

...and MLA style is just a uniform way of citing research.

Bibliography:

Source #1:
Scholarly article by Emma Smith

Summarize an argument

Source #2:
Magazine article by Hernandez and Babcock
Quote a sentence

Source #3:
Government website with no author

Pull a statistic

1

Your Paper

You summarize Smith's argument and cite it (Smith 89-90).
Then you quote from the magazine article (Hernandez and Babcock 115).
Then you give a statistic that you found on a government website ("FastStats - Asthma").

2

Works Cited

"FastStats - Asthma." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. . . .
Hernandez, Barbara, and David Babcock. "Asthma Update.". . .
Smith, Emma. "Asthma Research: Improving Treatment and Research." *Asthma Research Journal*. . . .

Learn just three concepts to understand MLA formatting:

1. In-text Citations

"Many times the subjects are 25-35 years old" (Smith 63).

2. Signal Phrases

According to Jim Jacobean, "The roots are the source" (342).

3. The Works Cited Page

Works Cited

Motluck, Alison. "Supersize Me: It's Time to Stop Blaming Fat People for Their Size." *Models for Writers: Short Essays For Composition.* Ed. Alfred Rosa and Paul Eschholz. 10th ed. Boston: Bedford, 2010. 562-565. Print.

Super Size Me. Dir. Morgan Spurlock. DVD. Hearth Sharp Video, 2004.

In-text Citations

In-text citations are just how you cite a quote in the body of your essay (before the *Works Cited* page) using *Parenthetical Documentation.*

Parenthetical Documentation is the source's info, usually the author's name and page number, put in parentheses at the end of borrowed information.

"*Many times the subjects are 25-35 years old*" *(Smith 63).*

(source info is inside parentheses, thus *parenthetical documentation*).

All borrowed information that isn't common knowledge needs to be cited:

- If there is no author name given, then use the title of the article, or a portion of it.

    "Many times the subjects are 25-35 years old" ("It Generation" 63).

- If there is no page number, then simply omit it.

    "Many times the subjects are 25-35 years old" ("It Generation").

Whether using the exact language of a quote or a paraphrasing of it, all borrowed info must be cited. Otherwise it is *plagiarism.*

exact language:

"Billboards represent less than 2 percent of total advertising in the United States" (Ogilvy 102).

paraphrase:

Billboards make up a minimal portion of modern advertising (Ogilvy 102).

note: the punctuation goes after the parenthetical documentation in these cases.

Using Long Quotes

It's often better not to use very long quotes, but sometimes it's sometimes necessary. This is also called a "block quote."

When doing so, a specific style is used for quotes of four or more typed lines:

> Americans take their ads too seriously. Many of us feel that ads dictate what we should be doing with our money, how we should look, and, even in some cases, what is right and wrong about our lives. But it is not completely our own fault -- perhaps we are just victims of our environment.
>
> American companies manufacture status symbols because American consumers want them. As Alexis de Tocqueville recognized a century and a half ago, the competitive nature of democratic societies breeds a desire for social distinction, a yearning to rise above the crowd. (Solomon 49)

indent 10 spaces

No quotation marks

punctuation goes *before* the citation here

Signal Phrases

To make your writing more fluid when including research, introduce the borrowed information to your readers by using *signal phrases* with your in-text citations.

As Adam Yauch has noted, *"blah blah blah" (234).*

According to Phil Rizzuto, *"woot woot" (132).*

The signal phrase can also go in between or at the end of the quote:

"Blah blah," **writes Hank Mobley,** *"woot woot woot" (38).*

"Woo wee woo," **notes Sheena Easton.**

It can also be helpful to give a bit of info about the people being quoted:

Radio Host Max Romeo offers a counter-argument: *"Woo blah" (17).*

"Wee blah," **claims wireless spokesperson Shawn Carter** (44).

There's no right or wrong here—just vary your usage for better "coherence."

Works Cited Page

The Works Cited page goes at the end of your essay and is formatted in a specific and particular way.

Each type of source has its own type of formatting, so make sure and pay close attention to formatting to avoid deductions in your grade.

Works Cited is its own page

title is centered,
not in quotes,
not underlined,
not in italics,
not in bold

last name
& page number

Smith 7

Works Cited

"Health Care Reform." *Issues & Controversies*. Facts On File News Services, 19 Apr. 2010.

    Web. 20 Apr. 2010.

Levey, Noam. "Report: Medicare Fund Eight Years From Insolvency." *Los Angeles Times*

    Article Collections. Los Angeles Times, 13 May 2009. Web. 19 April 2010.

Saad, Lydia. "By Slim Margin, Americans Support Healthcare Bill's Passage." *Gallup*. Gallup,

    23 March 2010. Web. 24 April 2010.

Tully, Shawn. "5 Freedoms you'd lose in Health Care Reform." *CNN Money*. CNN, 24 July 2009.

    Web. 19 April 2010.

"United States." *The World Factbook*. CIA, 22 April 2010. Web. 23 April 2010.

don't
number
entries

indent
successive
lines

arrange
alphabetically

only list sources actually used in the essay

The entry format depends on the type of source it is (book, article, online database, YouTube video, etc).

Don't assume all sources are formatted the same way:

- articles provided in this class come from different sources— make sure you're citing the correct type of source

- information found on a general website is not the same as from one of LBCC's online databases

- a *print article* is formatted differently than an article from an online newspaper or magazine

Most Works Cited entries will include:

--the author's name,

--title (of book/of article/of publication),

--publisher,

--place and year of publication.

Citing Books:

Author → Armajani, Jon. *Modern Islamist Movements: History, Religion, and Politics.* ← Book Title

Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

Publisher → Wiley-Blackwell

Publication Date → 2012

Citing Articles:

The container is the journal, newspaper or magazine the article is in.

Article title is within quotes and not italicised.

Version refers to types within each publication section for example a Weekend Newspaper

Author name(s). "Article Title". *Title of container*, contributors, version, numbers, date of publication, location. *Title of database*, DOI or URL

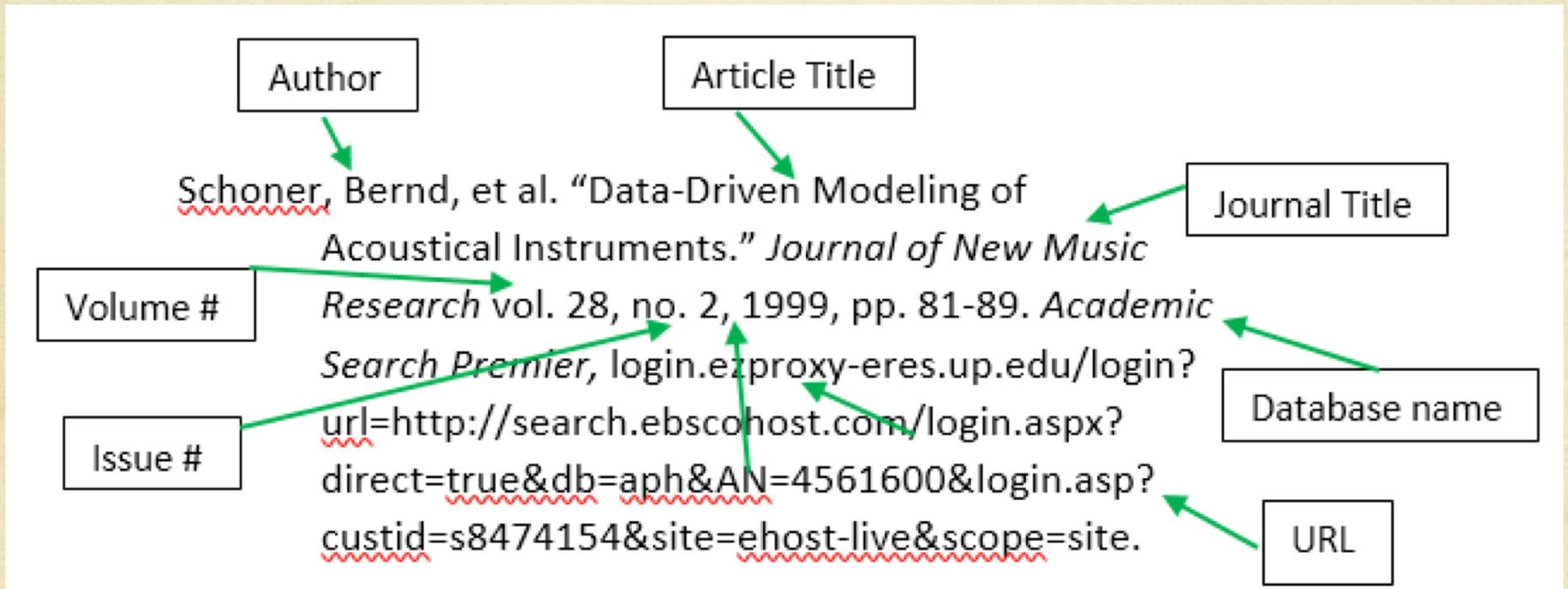Numbers refers to volume (vo.) and issue numbers (no.), eg vo. 9 no. 13

Location refers to page number.

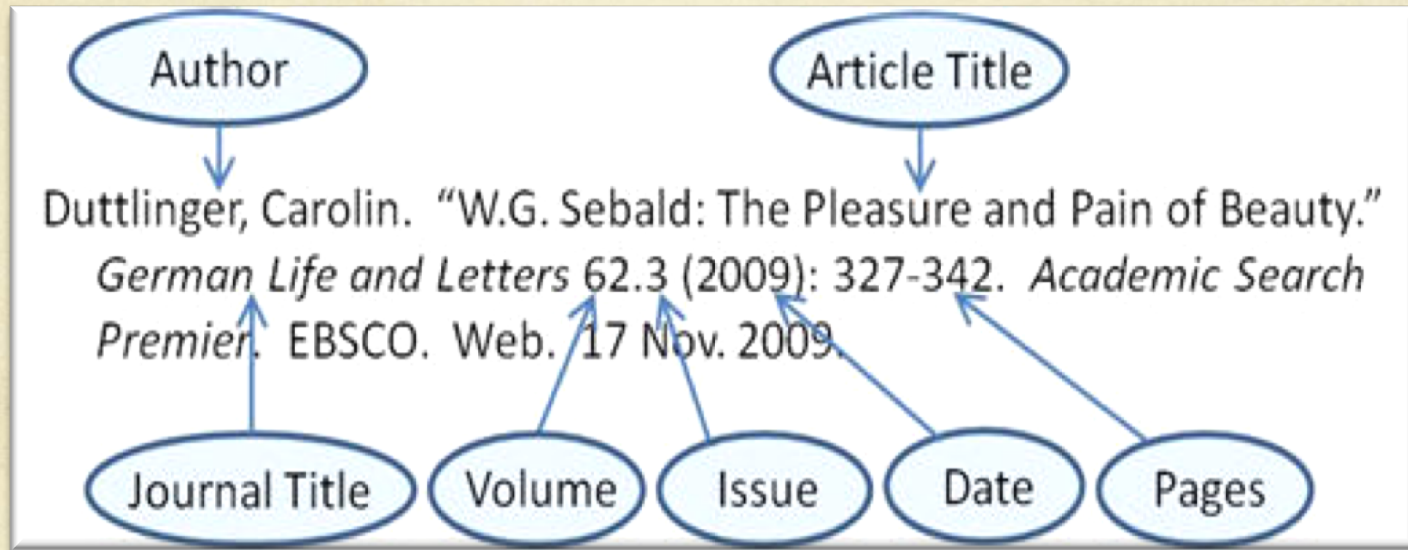These are included if the article is an online one.

Date:
1. Journal: season and year eg April, 2013
2. Newspaper & Magazine: day, month and year eg 8 November 2017

What it looks like (journal article citation):

Author

Article Title

Journal Title

Schoner, Bernd, et al. "Data-Driven Modeling of Acoustical Instruments." *Journal of New Music Research* vol. 28, no. 2, 1999, pp. 81-89. *Academic Search Premier,* login.ezproxy-eres.up.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=4561600&login.asp?custid=s8474154&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Volume #

Issue #

Database name

URL

https://libguides.up.edu/the105/mla

Citing Online Database sources:

fin