MLA Pathetical Citation Rules

General rule for citations

- Avoid interrupting the flow of reading with overly long parenthetical citations.
- Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name).
- Page numbers for ALL BOOKS AND EBOOKS.
- You do NOT need to give paragraph numbers or page numbers for articles from databases or websites.

Author with page (Print or Ebook)

- Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).
- He extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (Wordsworth 263).

On the Works Cited Page:

Wordsworth, William. *Lyrical Ballads*. London: Oxford UP, 1967. Print.

No Author—Use Shortened Title of Work (1st words on Works Cited)

- An abbreviated title of the article appears in the parenthetical citation which corresponds to the full name of the article.
- We see so many global warming hotspots in North America because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . ." ("Impact of Global Warming").

On the Works Cited Page:

"The Impact of Global Warming in North America." *Global Warming: Early Signs*. 1999. Web. 23 Mar. 2016.

Authors with Same Last Names

- If two or more authors have the same last name, provide both authors' first initials (or even the authors' full name if different authors share initials) in your citation.
- Although some medical ethicists claim that cloning will lead to designer children (R. Miller 12), others note that the advantages for medical research outweigh this consideration (A. Miller 46).

Multiple Authors (2-3 authors)

- George Washington spoke about his concerns that formation of political parties causing division in the nation (Jones and Stein 352).
- The authors state "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

Multiple Authors (more than 3 authors)

- Legal experts counter their argument by noting that the current spike in gun violence in America compels law makers to adjust gun laws (Jones et al. 4).

Two Articles with the same title (no author)

- If you have several articles that have NO author listed and have the same article title,
- In 1510, the Aztecs began to hear rumors that strangers had been sighted ("Montezuma II" *World History*).

On the Works Cited Page:

"Montezuma II." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. Detroit: Gale, 1998. Gale World History In Context. Web. 13 Dec. 2016.

"Montezuma II." *World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras*. ABC-CLIO, 2004. Web. 25 Nov. 2016.

Two or More Books by the Same Author

- If you cite more than one work by a particular author, include a shortened title for the particular work from which you are quoting to distinguish it from the others. Put short titles of books in italics and short titles of articles in quotation marks (basically, cite it as it is on your works cited).
- Visual studies, because it is such a new discipline, may be "too easy" (Elkins, *Visual Studies* 63).

On the Works Cited Page:

Elkins, James. *Visual Literacy*. New York: Routledge, 2008. Print.
Elkins, James. *Visual Studies: A Skeptical Introduction*. New York: Routledge, 2003. Print.

If you have a Works Cited that has ---

Carlisle, Rodney P., and John Stewart Bowman. *Iraq War*. Rev. ed., New York, Chelsea House, 2010.
---. *Persian Gulf War*. Rev. ed., New York, Chelsea House, 2010.

It means that both works are by the same author. See below for how to cite the source.

- In July of 1990, 300,000 Iraqi troops were at the boarder of Kuwait ready to advance into the country (Carlisle and Bowman, *Persian Gulf War* 40).

When a citation is NOT needed

- Common sense and ethics should determine your need for documenting sources.
- You do not need to give sources for well-known quotations or common knowledge.
- Remember, it is based on your audience. If you're writing for an expert audience of a scholarly journal, for example, they'll have different expectations of what constitutes common knowledge.

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/