

# **Sierra Writing Center**



## **Term Paper Handbook for MLA Format 2009 Update**

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Sierra College, Rocklin, California

## MLA STYLE RESEARCH PAPER

Some important aspects of the Modern Language Association (MLA) style paper are exemplified in the following sample pages of a student's research paper.

### First Page Format

The first page of an MLA style paper must include a *heading*. The heading begins in the upper-left corner, one inch from the top of the page. It consists of your name, the instructor's name, the course, and the date. *Double space all information.* Double space from the last line of the heading to the title. Center the title. The title should not be boldfaced, quoted, underlined, or italicized. The first letters of the main words should be capitalized. The first line of the essay is double-spaced from the title and indented one half-inch (one pre-set tab).

### Pagination

Your last name and page number should appear in a header in the upper right-hand corner, one half inch from the top of all pages, with one space between your name and the page number.

Margaret Lerner

Prof. Robert Krohn

English 2

28 May 2009

### Second Language Acquisition and Creole Languages

"Everi human being, naim dem born free and dem de equal for dignity and di rights wey we get " ("Dis Come" 18). This sentence from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights means, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," in one of the many creole languages found around the world. Some might think of this as "broken English," but linguists have found that creoles, like all human languages, are governed by their own grammatical rules. Creoles are sometimes described as mixed languages. Mark Sebba explains, "In linguistics, *creole* is a technical term meaning a language which comes into being through contact between two or more languages" (50). Creoles form when speakers of different languages live in close contact and must communicate in a common language. For example, Caribbean creoles developed when speakers of different African languages had to communicate with each other in English. English-based creoles take much of their vocabulary from English, "while elements of the pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and oral traditions can be traced to Africa" (Sebba 51).

Researchers notice similarities between creoles and second language learning. As Sebba points out, "usually creoles come about through a situation of partial language learning" (51). Whinnom calls them both forms of "linguistic hybridization" (91). Schuman extends the concept of interlanguage, comparing it to the creation of a creole. He defines interlanguage not as "mistakes or deviant forms, [but] . . . a separate . . . nevertheless genuine linguistic system" (Schumann, "Implications" 145). Creole languages may help us to understand second language acquisition as a process of creating and refining an individual's language system.

## Parenthetical Citations—Overview

If you are not familiar with parenthetical citations, study the examples that occur throughout this student essay. On page 1 the first parenthetical citation reads ("**Dis Come**" 18). You will also find the following examples: **Sebba . . . (50)**, **(Sebba 51)** and **(Schumann, "Implications" 145)**. These are common examples of how parenthetical citations occur.

Whenever you include information in your paper from another source, you must give credit to that source. This credit occurs within the text in the form of a parenthetical citation and at the end of the paper on the Works Cited page. The in-text parenthetical citation and the Works Cited page correlate. Study the sample student paper, including the Works Cited page, for a clearer understanding of this method, and study the following pages on parenthetical citations. If you have further questions, ask a Writing Center staff member for clarification.

## Quoting

When you copy exact words that you find in a text, you must use quotation marks (" "). You must copy the word(s), sentence, or passage precisely as it appears, and you must be sure to give credit to the author in the form of a parenthetical citation and on your Works Cited page.

For passages longer than four lines, use the block quotation method. A blocked quotation is indented one inch (two tabs) from the left margin, then carried to the normal margin on the right. Double space blocked quotations like the rest of the paper. An example of this method appears on page 4 of the sample student paper.

When you use a quotation of an indirect source—that is, your source has quoted from another source—you must include the name of the original speaker or writer of the quotation *and* cite the source where you found it. The original speaker or writer of the words may be identified in the sentence or in the parenthetical citation. Put the abbreviation *qtd. in* (meaning *quoted in*) before your source's author (or title, if no author) in the parenthetical citation.

psychological factor of motivation has the highest correlation with level of development of negation.

Schumann uses these findings to argue that acculturation is the main factor in language acquisition ("Acculturation" 27). On closer examination, however, the findings seem to show that social factors are not as important as motivation. Stauble reasons:

Based on the results of this questionnaire a learner's motivational orientation is the determining factor in this notion of parallel development between acculturation and language development. Therefore it can be hypothesized that the amount and kind of motivation the second language learner has plays a decisive role in the degree to which he will acculturate toward the "model" language group and accounts for his degree of linguistic development toward the "model" language. (50)

This assertion applies only to what psychologists call integrative motivation, the wish to become part of the target language culture, not to instrumental motivation, the desire to achieve a goal such as career advancement (Gardner and Lambert 17). Like Schumann, Stauble limits her discussion to "natural" language acquisition, so she does not take into account that people successfully learn English as a foreign language through instruction. We can surmise that such learners have an instrumental motivation since they are not living in contact with the target language culture.

Schumann asserts that acculturation is the cause of second language acquisition, seeing SLA as just one aspect of acculturation ("Acculturation" 27). However, later research has not supported this model. Schmidt reports that factors including "high integrative motivation to use the second language for communication have led to a considerable increase in overall *communicative* competence but have had little effect on improved *grammatical* competence" (qtd. in Kaspar and Rose 19). He concludes that the degree of a learner's acculturation could not

## Parenthetical Citations (with Examples)

A formal MLA style research paper requires both in-text parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page at the end of the paper.

A parenthetical citation should appear at the end of a direct quotation, paraphrase or summary to indicate which source you have used. The citation should follow the end quotation marks for a short quotation but precede the sentence punctuation. In a blocked quotation, however, the punctuation precedes the citation.

Parenthetical citations must easily guide readers from the cited material in your text to the correct source on your Works Cited page, as well as inform the reader of the location (page numbers) in the source from which your quotation, paraphrase, or summary was taken.

1. When the author or title is not named in your text, provide the author's last name and the page numbers with no punctuation between them.  
**Example: "The period from 1958 to 1968 marked the most active years in the United States for demonstrations and actions that opened up opportunities for black Americans" (Jacobs 199).**
2. If a work has two or three authors, give all their last names. If there are more than three authors, you may list all the authors' last names or use the first author's last name followed by the Latin *et al.*  
**Example: "If you are a beginning writer, you may mistakenly believe you are a poor writer because you cannot produce a final copy on your first try" (Markline et al. 101).**
3. When the author or title is named in your text, you do not need to repeat it in the parenthetical citation.  
**Example: According to Jacobs, the decade from 1958 to 1968 was a time of many civil rights demonstrations (119).**
4. When your Works Cited page contains two or more works by the same author, you must list the name of the work (shortened title) in the parenthetical citation.  
**Example: An aspiring novelist should be fluent in more than one language (Gardner, *On Becoming* 123-26).**

5. If you refer to information from an entire text, rather than just part of it, you do not need to cite the page numbers.  
**Example: In *On Becoming a Novelist*, Gardner speaks of the nature of those who write fiction.**
6. An anonymous work must be cited by a shortened title of the book or article.  
**Example: One chapter reports that the serious writer is always well-disciplined (“Writing Life” 16).**
7. To refer to material from two different sources, cite each source by author and page number, and separate the two with a semicolon.  
**Example: Two works on writing fiction point out that character-driven plots tend to be more literary, and sales tend to be less than for genre fiction, which relies on plot and action (Gardner 333; Harris 324).**
8. Information from a personal interview is cited by using the source’s last name in the parentheses. No parenthetical citation is necessary if the source’s name is included in the text.  
**Example: Novelist Donald Samson said his first novel was ignored by the critics.**
9. If the author of your resource material is a public or private organization, cite the work by the organization’s name. If the name is long, use it in the text so as to avoid a lengthy parenthetical citation.  
**Example: The National Audubon Society found significant changes in its annual bird count that may reflect global warming.**
10. To cite a dictionary definition, quote and capitalize the word, following it with a comma and the number of the definition.  
**Example: Perry's use of the word *liberal* refers to education in the liberal arts (“Liberal,” 1a).**
11. If you cite two anonymous works with the same title, add another piece of information from the source to differentiate the two:  
**Examples: Dickinson was a recluse who did not accept change (“Emily,” *Dictionary*).**  
**Among Dickinson's most prevalent themes are death, loss, and regeneration (“Emily,” *Modern*).**

## Works Cited Format

The Works Cited page is placed at the end of your essay and lists all the resources you have referred to in your paper. Note the following characteristics of the Works Cited page:

1. Your name and page number appear in the upper right corner.
2. The title, Works Cited, is centered.
3. Entries are double-spaced—that is, double space lines within the entries and between the entries. *No extra space occurs between entries.*
4. Entries are listed in alphabetical order by
  - author's last name, or
  - title, if the source does not have an author. Ignore the articles *a*, *an*, and *the* when alphabetizing.
5. When using more than one work by the same author, do not repeat the author's name. Instead, use three hyphens followed by a period for each entry after the first.
6. You must adhere to the MLA format (punctuation and spacing) for these entries. See the MLA style Works Cited models on the following pages.

## Works Cited

- "Dis Come Vex Everibodi." *Harper's Magazine* March 2003: 18-20. *ProQuest Research Library*.  
Web. 26 May 2009.
- Gardner, Robert. C., and William E. Lambert. *Attitudes and Motivation in Second-Language Learning*. Rowley: Newbury House, 1972. Print.
- Gitsaki, Christina. "Second Language Acquisition Theories: Overview and Evaluation." *Journal of Communication and International Studies* 4.2 (1998). Web. 26 May 2009.
- Kasper, Gabriele, and Kenneth R. Rose. "Theories of Second Language Pragmatic Development." Spec. issue of *Language Learning* 52.4 (2002): 13-61. Print.
- Schumann, John H. "The Acculturation Model for Second Language Acquisition." *Second Language Acquisition and Foreign Language Teaching*. Ed. Rosario C. Gingras. Arlington: Center for Applied Linguistics, 1978. 27-50. Print.
- . "The Implications of Interlanguage, Pidginization and Creolization for the Study of Adult Second Language Acquisition." *TESOL Quarterly* 8.2 (1974): 145-52. Print.
- Sebba, Mark. "How Do You Spell Patwa?" *Critical Quarterly* 38.4 (1996): 50-63. *ProQuest Research Library*. Web. 26 May 2009.
- Stauble, Ann-Marie. "The Process of Decreolization: A Model for Second Language Development." *Language Learning* 28.1 (1978): 29-54. Print.
- Whinnom, Keith. "Linguistic Hybridization and the 'Special Case' of Pidgins and Creoles." Ed. Dell Hymes. *Pidginization and Creolization of Language*. London: Cambridge UP, 1971. 91-115. Print.

## MLA STYLE DOCUMENTATION MODELS FOR A WORKS CITED PAGE

Writers of research papers often incorporate personal insights, judgments, and experiences as elements of their work, but documented external data (facts or opinions attested to by an authority or other useful source) establish the researcher's credibility, demonstrate scholarly exploration of the topic, as well as increase the researcher's knowledge in the field. The following are some models of how sources of evidence must appear on the Works Cited page at the end of the paper. For each entry, follow the punctuation style and spacing *exactly*. However, because many sources will not fall precisely into the following categories, you may need to seek an instructor's assistance.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Book:**

Author's last name, first name. *Book Title*. Place of publication (if several cities are listed, give only the first. For cities outside the U.S., add an abbreviation of the country; use N.p. if no place is listed): Publisher (shorten the publisher's name), year of publication. Medium of publication.

### **Example:**

Tan, Amy. *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. New York: Putnam, 2001. Print.

**Note:** When there are two or three authors or editors, use the normal order (first name first) for all *except* the first author.

### **Example:**

Lunsford, Andrea A., and John J. Ruskiewicz, eds. *The Presence of Others*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford, 2008. Print.

### **Chapter or Work in a Book:**

Author's last name, first name. "Article Title." *Book Title*. Editor's first and last names. Edition number. Place of publication: Publisher, year of publication. Page numbers. Medium of publication.

### **Example:**

Baldwin, James. "Sonny's Blues." *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing*. Ed. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman, 2010. 51-72. Print.

## Article or Definition in a Reference Book:

Author's last name, first name. "Article Title." *Reference Book Title*. Edition number and/or year of publication. Medium of publication.

### Example:

Hall, Calvin S. "Dreams." *Encyclopedia Americana*. 1985 ed. Print.

**Note:** When no author is listed, begin the entry with the article title. For a dictionary, include the term *Def.* and the definition number and letter.

### Example:

"Home." *Def. 4a. The American Heritage Dictionary*. 2nd ed. 1985. Print.

## Scholarly Journal Article:

Author's last name, first name. "Article Title." *Journal Title* volume number.issue number (year): pages. Medium of publication.

### Example:

Marshall, Brigitte. "Reexamining the Role of Adult Educators." *The CATESOL Journal* 9.2

(1996): 127-132. Print.

## Magazine Article:

Author's last name, first name. "Article Title." *Magazine Title* date: page numbers. Medium of publication.

### Example:

Harary, Keith. "Language of the Night." *Omni* Sept. 1993: 46-7. Print.

**Note:** When citing a weekly magazine, include the day in the date.

### Example:

Smith, John K. "Food for Thought." *Time* 24 Aug. 2001: 46. Print.

## Advertisement:

Name of product. Advertisement. Publication information. Medium of publication.

### Example:

Ray-Ban. Advertisement. *Rolling Stone* 14 May 2009: 9. Print.

### **Newspaper Article:**

If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, put the first page and a plus sign.

Author's last name, first name. "Article Title." *Newspaper Title* date, edition: page. Medium of publication.

### **Example:**

Martin, Glen. "Along the Sacramento, Songbirds Flourish Again." *San Francisco Chronicle* 27 Nov. 2006, final ed.: A1+. Print.

### **Article from an Online Database:**

The Sierra College Library subscribes to databases such as ProQuest. For an article found on one of these databases, you must cite its original publication information, the database, the publication medium, and the date of access. (Use n.d. if there is no date and n. pag. if there are no page numbers listed.)

Author's last name, first name. "Article Title." *Periodical Title* and publication information for the printed source (including date of publication and pages, if given). *Database*. Medium of publication. Date of access.

### **Example:**

Franz, Barbara. "Immigrant Youth, Hip-Hop, and Feminist Pedagogy: Outlines of an Alternative Integration Policy in Vienna, Austria." *International Studies Perspectives* 13.3 (2012): 270-288. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 5 Mar. 2014.

### **Reprint of an Article in a Volume of Literary Criticism on a Database:**

Author's last name, first name. "Article Title." *Periodical Title* and publication information for the original printed source (including date of publication and pages or n.d. or n. pag.). Rpt. in publication information of the reprinted source. *Database*. Publication medium. Date of access.

### **Example:**

Griffith, Philip Mahone. "Joseph Warton's Criticism of Shakespeare." *Tulane Studies in English* 14 (1965): 17-27. Rpt. in *Literature Criticism from 1400-1800*. Ed. Thomas J. Schoenberg and Lawrence J. Trudeau. Vol. 128. Detroit: Gale, 2007. 17-27. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 9 Sept. 2009.

### **Internet Site or Home Page:**

Include the URL if required by the instructor or if the source cannot be accessed through a simple Internet search.

Author's last name, first name. *Site Title* (or a description like Home page or Course home page).

Publisher or sponsor of the site (N.p. if not available), date of publication (n.d. if not available). Medium of publication. Date of access. <Internet address, if required>.

#### **Example:**

*Cosumnes River Preserve*. The Nature Conservancy of California, 13 Sept. 2000. Web. 7 Nov. 2000. <<http://www.cosumnes.org>>.

**Note:** In this example, no author name is given; thus the citation begins with the site title.

### **Internet Document on a Website:**

If you are citing a document that is part of an Internet site, include the author, if given, and the title of the document in quotation marks. (An Internet address, if required, can be broken at the end of a line after a slash mark.)

Author's last name, first name. "Document Title." *Site Title*. Publisher or sponsoring organization (use N.p. if not available), date of publication (use n.d. if not available). Publication medium. Date of access. <Internet address, if required>.

#### **Example:**

Duncan, Emma. "Conflict Resolution Can Help Save Tigers." *WWF Global Network*. World Wildlife Federation, 1 May 2002. Web. 28 May 2002. <<http://www.panda.org/news/features/sotry.cfm?id=2892>>.

### **Online Encyclopedia:**

Author's last name, first name (if available). "Article Title." *Title of Encyclopedia*. Publisher or sponsor of the site, year. Publication medium. Date of access.

#### **Example:**

"Sigmund Freud." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2008. Web. 9 Sept. 2009.

## **Book on the Internet:**

Author's last name, first name. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, year. *Database or Website*  
*Title*. Publication medium. Date of access. <Internet address, if required>.

### **Example:**

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. London: Service and Paton, 1897. *Gutenberg Project*. Web. 9 Sept.  
2009.

## **Work of Visual Art:**

Artist's last name, first name. *Title of work*. Date of composition. Medium of composition.

Museum or institution that houses the work, City where museum or institution is located.

### **Example:**

Picasso, Pablo. *Guernica*. 1937. Oil on Canvas. Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid.

**Note:** If the work of visual art is viewed in a database, omit the medium of composition and add the database information and date of access.

### **Example:**

Picasso, Pablo. *Guernica*. 1937. Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid. *ARTstor*. Web. 10 Sept. 2009.

## **Personal Interview:**

Last name, first name (of the interviewee). Personal or telephone interview. Date of interview.

### **Example:**

Rodriguez, David. Personal interview. 10 Sept. 2009.

## **Lecture:**

Speaker's last name, first name. "Title" or description. Location. Date.

### **Example:**

DeFoe, Daniel. Class Lecture. Sierra College, Rocklin. 10 Mar. 2009.

## **DVD or Video:**

*Title*. Director's first and last names. Performers, writers and producers (optional). Original  
release date, if relevant. Distributor, year. Medium of publication.

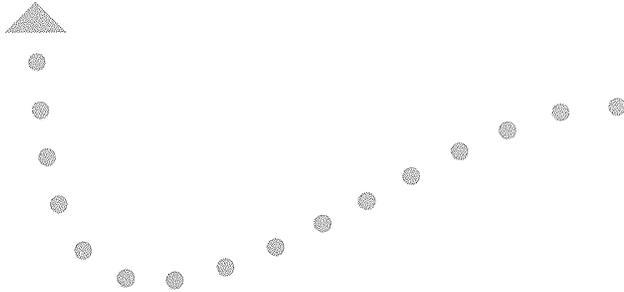
### **Example:**

*Dark Knight*. Dir. Christopher Nolan. Perf. Christian Bale and Heath Ledger. 2008. Warner  
Bros., 2009. DVD.

## For More Information

The Writing Center is located in LRC 424. For more information call (916) 660-8093, or log on to our web site at <http://lrc.sierracollege.edu/writingcenter>

# Sierra Writing Center



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General formatting guidelines. Every page of an MLA paper needs to follow certain formatting rules. These are related to the text itself, as well as spacing and alignment. Text formatting. The format of an MLA Works Cited list follows many of the same rules as the rest of the paper, including font size, the application of double spacing and the inclusion of the header. You should also use hanging indents for entries that cover more than one line of text and end all entries with a period. This handbook includes updated formats from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition, 2009. Cover Art: Mark of the Publisher Gillet Hardouin, Paris. Source: Medieval Woodcuts Clipart Collection. MLA STYLE RESEARCH PAPER Some important aspects of the Modern Language Association (MLA) style paper are exemplified in the following sample pages of a student's research paper. First Page Format The first page of an MLA style paper must include a heading. The heading begins in the upper-left corner, one inch from the top of the page. It consists of your name, the instructor's name, the course, and the date. How to format the Works Cited page of an MLA style paper. See Also. 1. Document Settings. Your word processor comes with default settings (margin, line height, paragraph spacing, and typeface) that will likely need adjustment. MLA Works Cited Citation Builder (Jerz's Literacy Weblog) Choose a form, fill it out, and push the button; you will get an individual entry for a Works Cited page, which you may then copy and paste into your word processor. My BibBuilder is more like a guide than a full-fledged utility, but you may nevertheless find it helpful. EasyBib's MLA Guide Find everything you need to know about formatting a paper, name, number, quotations, works cited, and more in MLA format! 566 thoughts on MLA Format Papers: Step-by-step Tips for Writing Research Essays.