

## Week 11: MLA Review

We haven't spoken too much about formatting and citations yet, as I've wanted to focus more on what you had to say than on issues of citations. But as we get into our final projects, we'll need to make sure that we are familiar with MLA formatting and citations rules, so we will take this week to review those rules.

Good news about MLA citations:

You do NOT need to memorize a bit of citation rules. Why would you waste valuable brain space on material that you can find online or in print? I mean, you are never asked to cite a source on the fly, are you? Have you ever been walking through Wal-Mart and had someone run up to you in a panic, screaming, "Quick, cite a book with one author! It's a matter of life or death!"

So here are my rules for handling MLA formatting and citations:

1. Always have an MLA guide handy when you know you'll be doing research. There are a ton of hard copy guidebooks, and many more free, online guides. Our reading this week is the guide I use when grading your MLA work, so I would suggest you use it as you format your work and cite your sources.
2. Understand the basics. If you can get your head around the basic concepts, then most of the rest of the rules will fall into place. The reading this week will explain those basic concepts.

### READING

Review the following website:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

(You'll want to just skim the many examples of different citations in these works. There's no way to memorize them, but you should familiarize yourself with how they work.)

### MLA DISCUSSION FORUM

Once you have reviewed the OWL website, do the following in our discussion forum: find an article, book, website, or other source that you can imagine using when writing a college essay. I don't care what kind of source you use. (In other words, you might want to make your life easy by using a fairly typical type of source rather than something unusual, but it's up to you.)

Now do the following:

1. In your opening discussion post, cite your source following MLA citation formatting rules.
2. Explain why you formatted your citation as you did. Defend your formatting.
3. In your two additional required posts, critique two of your classmates' citations. Were they formatted correctly? If you think there are errors, point them out.

### MLA TEST

By midnight Sunday night, complete the MLA test included with this week's work. This test has TWO parts: (1) in-text quotes with signal phrases and in-text citations, and (2) a Works Cited page, completed on a separate page and formatted following MLA formatting and citation rules.