USING THE MLA FORMAT

The information in this handout, taken from *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition*, covers many cases in research papers when outside sources will need to be credited. For additional information about other cases, consult the *MLA Handbook* at the reference desks located throughout the Libraries.

**Important!** Be sure to check with your instructor as to whether he or she prefers underlined or italicized titles.

**CITATIONS IN THE BODY OF THE PAPER**

*When you omit the author's name in your sentence:*
One researcher has found that dreams move backward in time as the night progresses (Dement 71).

*When you mention the author's name in your sentence:*
Freud states that "a dream is the fulfillment of a wish" (154).

*When you cite more than one work by the same author:*
One theory emphasizes the principle that dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes, *Sleep* 184). But investigation shows that young children's dreams are "rather simple and unemotional" (Foulkes, "Dreams" 78).

*When the work has two or three authors:*
Psychologists hold that no two children are alike (Gesell and Ing 68).

*When a work has no author, begin with the word by which the title is alphabetized in the "Works Cited" list:*
Random testing for steroids use by athletes faces strong opposition by owners of several teams ("Steroids" 22).

**CITATIONS IN THE "WORKS CITED" LIST**

Double space all entries and list in alphabetical order by author's last name. Generally, entries have three main divisions (author, title, and publication information), each followed by a period and two spaces. See the *MLA Handbook* and Web sites listed on the handout entitled "Citation Styles for the WWW" for additional examples and advice.

*Book with One Author*

*Two Books by the Same Author* (Note: After the first listing of the author’s name, use three hyphens and a period for the author’s name; list books alphabetically.)
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*Book with Two or Three Authors*

*Book with Four or More Authors*
**Book with a Corporate Author**  

**Book or Article with no Author Named**  


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**Film**

**Personal Interview**
Lesh, Philip. Personal Interview. 12 Nov. 1996.

**Web Page**

**Article in an Electronic Journal or Full-text Database**

For additional examples for Web resources, please refer to the FAQ for MLA Style on the MLA Web page - http://www.mla.org