

MLA - DOCUMENTING SOURCES

Goals:

1. To document sources in the body of a paper using MLA guidelines.
2. To produce a Works Cited page using MLA guidelines.

Explanation:

To cite sources within an essay, provide only enough information to direct the reader to your source on the Works Cited page. See the example below (remember, the essay would normally be double spaced.)

EXAMPLE:

To early Native Americans, mountain lions—also known as cougars, pumas, and panthers—were objects of reverence. The European colonists, however, did not share the Native American view. They conducted what Ted Williams calls an “all-out war on the species” (29). The lions were eliminated from the eastern United States except for a small population that remains in the Florida Everglades.

The lions lingered on in the West, but in smaller and smaller numbers. At least 66,665 lions were killed between 1907 and 1978 in Canada and the United States (Hansen 58). As late as 1969, the country’s leading authority on the big cat, Maurice Hornocker, estimated the United States population as fewer than 6,500 and probably dropping (Williams 30).

Exercise 1:

- A. Read the first page of the MLA Documentation handout for in-text citations.
- B. Fill in the blanks below.

The early residents of Virginia City, Nevada, were drawn by a rather modest gold strike, but the discovery of silver as the gold mines were ceasing production brought an astounding array of would-be minders, tradesmen, and bon-vivants (). In *The Big Bonanza*, Oscar Lewis states, “The ramshackled cabins and makeshift saloons of the gold era were soon replaced by elaborate mansions and a thriving business district” (). The wealth generated by the silver deposits brought a craving for literacy and culture that drew some of the foremost writers and actors of the time to the burgeoning little town at the top of the mountain ().

Exercise 2:

- A. See the attached sample Works Cited page. Notice the correct MLA format. All of the entries are alphabetized and double-spaced.
- B. Read page 2 of the MLA documentation handout.
- C. Use a computer to create a Works Cited page that includes all of the citations below. Use the sample entries in the MLA handout as models for your citations.

A book called *Nevada* by E.M. Mack and published by Free Press in New York in 1982.

An article by Jerry Johnston entitled "Pyramid Lake" in the January 1992 issue of *Nevada Magazine* on pages 12-14. The article was found on the SIRS computer in the Researcher database at the Allan Hancock College Library on December 12, 1999.

An article called "The Great Silver Strike" in *Smithsonian* magazine in the March 1992 issue appearing on page 66 and written by Todd Mabee.

A personal interview with James Walker on April 4, 1998.

An article in an online computer-based encyclopedia called "Virginia City" found in the 2009 edition of *Grolier's Encyclopedia*. It was published in Danbury by Grolier in 2009 and accessed on July 3, 2009.

An article by Peter Boyarski called "Exploring Mining Towns" and appearing in the May 15, 1994 issue of the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper in section B on page 10.

A book by Oscar Lewis called *The Big Bonanza* and published by Knopf in New York in 1983.

The Kentucky Coal Association's professional website entitled Coal Education which was updated on September 18, 2000 and accessed on October 9, 2000. The address is <<http://www.coaleducation.org>>.

Note: The first reference is on page 397 in a book by E.M. Mack called *Nevada*. The second reference on page 37 of a book called *The Big Bonanza* by Oscar Lewis. The third reference is from page 66 of the March 1992 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine in an article by Todd Mabee called "The Great Silver Strike."

Works Cited

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Kaplan, Robert D. "History Moving North." *Atlantic Monthly*. Feb. 1997: 21+. SIRS Knowledge Source: *Researcher*. SIRS. Allan Hancock Coll. Lib., Santa Maria. Web. 5 Nov. 1999.

"Mount Shasta." *Grolier's Encyclopedia*. 1995 ed. CD-ROM. Danbury: Grolier, 1995. Print.

Stevenson, R.L. *Kidnapped*. Baltimore: Penguin, 1946. Print.

Young, Mary W. Personal interview. 22 Oct. 1981.