MLA IN-TEXT CITATIONS (Modern Language Association)

NOTE: MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken usually appears in the text and a complete reference must appear on your "Works Cited" page. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number should appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.

Author's name in text: Cite only the page numbers in parenthesis at the end of the sentence.

In-text example:

Wordsworth explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

In Works Cited:

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

Author's name not in text: Include both the author's name and page numbers in parenthesis at the end of the sentence.

In-text example:

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings"

(Wordsworth 263).

In Works Cited:

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

No author listed for source (cite by title): Include the first few words of the title followed by page or paragraph numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Italicize book titles and put article and Web site titles in quotation marks.

In-text example:

An anonymous Wordsworth critic once argued that his poems were too emotional ("William

Wordsworth: Intensity and Achievement" 580).

In Works Cited:

"William Wordsworth: Intensity and Achievement." *The Review of English Studies* 45.180

(Nov. 1994): 578. *Literature Resource Center.* Web. 15 Dec. 2008.

Citing Indirect Sources

Sometimes you may have to use an indirect source. An indirect source is a source cited in another source. For such indirect quotations, use "**qtd. in**" for quoted in to indicate the source you actually consulted. In most cases, a responsible researcher will attempt to find the original source, rather than citing an indirect source. Example of an indirect in-text reference:

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well"

(qtd. in Weisman 259).

For Electronic and Internet sources, follow the following guidelines:

- You do **not need** to give paragraph numbers or page numbers based on your Web browser's print preview function. But if the online source does have printed page numbers, use those.

- Unless you must list the website name in the signal phrase in order to get the reader to the appropriate entry, do not include URLs in-text.

In-text example:

The water level in the Great Lakes has gone down in recent years (Hill).   **(no page number)**

In Works Cited:

Hill, Michael. "If Great Lakes Drop, Hydropower Likely Affected." *Great*

Lakes Directory. 1 Sept. 2008. Web. 10 Dec. 2008

<http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/Minnesota/sept0108>.

For more detail and examples, see:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.   REF LB 2369 .G53 2009 (at Ref East and Ref West desks)

The OWL at PURDUE: MLA 2009 In-text Citations: Author-Page Style

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