



# MLA: When & Why

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## What is plagiarism?

Using the intellectual property of another author without proper recognition. If information, quotations, or even ideas are used without a Parenthetical Reference and an entry in the Works Cited section, remedial action can follow, including failing grades on specific assignments or even the loss of a course.

## When do I use a parenthetical reference?

- All direct quotations
- Paraphrases of a quotation
- Summaries of an author's opinions or ideas



**if in doubt  
QUOTE IT!**

## How do I know if I've borrowed (paraphrased) ideas?

Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between your ideas and those of others. In general, if you are using the:

- sequence of ideas
- arrangement of material, or
- pattern of thought

from another writer, then you are **paraphrasing** their ideas (Newmann 142).

## Which citation style do I use?

Different subject areas and faculties have different method of citing information that has been obtained from other sources. Three of the most common ones are MLA, APA, and Chicago Style (Turabian). Ask your professor to clarify which style is used in your faculty or area of study. MLA is generally preferred in the Arts and Humanities.

## Can I use both parenthetical references and footnotes/endnotes?



Yes you can, but you cannot use both for citing quotations. If you include Footnotes/Endnotes in a paper that uses MLA style Parenthetical References, they are used to elaborate further on a point that is important, but seems out-of-place in the framework of the essay or paper. In general, this practice is for upper and graduate level writing; so if you are still confused, do not use Footnotes/Endnotes.

## Do I need a Works Cited list and a Bibliography?

Generally this is not required; however, consult your professor to clarify this.

### Works Cited

Newmann P. Birk and Genevieve B. Birk. [A Handbook of Grammar, Rhetoric, Mechanics, and Usage, 5th ed.](#)  
Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1976. Print

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