Hello!
I’m Patricia Doucette
Objective of this Session

1. Understand the MLA Citation style
2. Have a better idea of how to pick a research paper topic and start researching
3. Where to Find & Access the best Databases for your field
Let's Start with MLA
The three guiding principles:

1. Cite simple traits shared by most works.
2. Remember that there is more than one way to cite the same source.
3. Make your documentation useful to readers.
An MLA Style paper should:

- Be typed on white 8.5” x 11” paper
- Double-space everything
- Use 12 pt. Times New Roman (or similar) font
- Leave only one space after punctuation
- Set all margins to 1 inch on all sides
- Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch
Each entry in the list of works cited is made up of core elements given in a specific order. The core elements should be listed in the order in which they appear here. Each element is followed by the punctuation mark shown here.
MLA Print Citation Example:


In Text (Sutton 57)
MLA Online Citation Example:

**Academic Journal Article, Quarterly Publication**

- Author: Brown, Brian A.
- "Title of Article:" Cloning: Where's the Outrage?
- Journal Title, Human Life Review
- Date of Publication, vol. 24, no. 2, Spring 1998
- Pages: pp. 107-108
- Database: Academic Search Complete

In-text citation: Brown explains that "text of quotation" (107).
OR
"Text of quotation" (Brown 107).
Works Cited Page

Acknowledges all the sources you have cited in your project

Organized in alphabetical order

Strictly follows citation style format (APA, MLA . . . )
Title of source.

Books and websites should be in italics:


“Periodicals (journal, magazine, newspaper article), television episodes, and songs should be in quotation marks”:


Freeman 8

Works Cited


Examples of MLA within your Writing
In-text example:

According to some, dreams express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.

According to Foulkes’s study, dreams may express “profound aspects of personality” (184).

Is it possible that dreams may express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes 184)?
In-text example:

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration: They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)
Despite his termination by the Watcher’s Council in season three, Giles persists to teach and counsel Buffy while playing a "father-figure" role (DeCandido 44).

A 2016 study suggests that stricter gun control in the United States will significantly prevent accidental shootings (Strong and Ellis 23).
Helpful Tools


Citation Machine: [http://www.citationmachine.net/top](http://www.citationmachine.net/top)

OWL Purdue MLA

Formatting Tips
Databases at HC

Academic Search Premier
Let’s start with the Research Process / where to start!
How do I pick a topic?

1. Start searching google to get a sense of your desired topic
2. Start asking open-ended questions about the topic
3. Evaluate your topic to see if you can prove something
4. Finally, create a research question!
What's a Research Question?

- A Statement to guide your research that is:
  - Clear
  - Focused
  - Concise
  - Complex
  - Arguable

Fascinating for you & the reader

Bad research questions confirm your prior opinions
Lets Research!

- **The 6 Research steps:**
  - Planning
  - Selecting / refining a topic
  - Finding sources
  - Evaluating your sources
  - Organizing your findings
  - Writing & revising

These steps do not always happen in order.
While Researching Always:

- Take notes while reading articles & make connections between authors
- Keep track of citations by putting them in a separate word document
- Be critical and evaluate the information presented to you
- Keep an open mind and be flexible to change your original thesis as you discover new information
Any Questions or Concerns?