Introduction to Academic Referencing in MLA
What is Academic Referencing

- Acknowledging the sources of information and ideas in our work.
- Including but not limited to art, broadcasts, conversations, ideas, images, music, maps, phrases, quotations, summaries, videos, words ...
- Using a recognized style
- Being consistent in your use of that style
We give credit where credit is due...

- At Carson Graham we are principled.
- We act with integrity.
- We are honest academics.
The academically honest student:

- Documents all source material in a standard style of referencing
- Uses direct quotations and paraphrase appropriately
- Respects others’ intellectual property by abiding by copyright law
- Understands what constitutes academic dishonesty
- Understands the consequences of academic misconduct
- Acknowledges explicitly and appropriately help provided by another person
- Follows all exam rules
Research Skills

* You will develop research skills in all your classes.

* You will self-assess your own skills.

* Your teachers will assess you on how well you "document sources" and "communicate" your research.
Referencing Styles

- APA Style (geography, math, sciences)
- MLA (English, French, Spanish, history)
Why cite?

- helps readers distinguish our work from others’
- provides an opportunity for readers to check validity
- leads readers to new content
- establishes credibility and authority of our knowledge and ideas
- it is the HONEST thing to do (IBO, 2014).
When to cite?

- On our presentation slides
- In our videos
- In our oral presentations ("according to...")
- On our images
- In our written work (both in-text and on the Works Cited list)
What to cite?

INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Art
- Broadcasts
- Conversations
- Ideas
- Images
- Music
- Maps
- Phrases
- Quotations
- Summaries
- Videos
- Words …
How to cite?

- Choose an academic style appropriate to the discipline you are working in
- Find reliable resources on the style
  - Carson Library website
  - Carson Library books
  - Owl at Purdue
  - University websites
- Follow the rules written in those resources
- ‘Mirror’ the citations
What is MLA?

- Modern Language Association (MLA)
- Most commonly used format for referencing in the humanities
Works Cited for MLA

- "MLA style is a system for documenting sources"
- An alphabetized list of sources
- Invert authors’ names (last name first followed by initials).
- Special rules for capitalization in APA (see samples)
Here's an example of a Works Cited.

Works Cited


Creating the MLA Works Cited list

- Identify the source type: book? journal article? webpage?
- Find an accurate sample of a citation for this type of resource from a reputable source (like the *MLA Style Manual* or the OWL at Purdue)
- ‘Mirror’ the sample (copy the format)
- Arrange the list in alphabetical order
- Indent all lines after the first in a citation (hanging indent)
- Double space the list
For additional information & examples

- Owl Purdue Online Writing Lab: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

- Carson Graham Library
  - Research section of the website
  - *MLA Style Manual* Call # 808
  - MLA
  - Ask your Librarians: Ms Davis, Ms Kagan & Ms Tieche
Whenever you use a direct quote or paraphrase an idea from a source, provide in parenthesis:

- the author’s name (or the first unit of info on the Works Cited list)
  (Tieche)
- for print sources, provide a page number as well
  (Tieche 15)
In Text Citations – Quoting - MLA

- MLA allows for writers to use longer quotes.
- See specific rules in the *MLA Style Manual* or some other reliable source.
- Make sure to include the author’s name.
- For print sources, include the page number.
- I.e. – “Mr Kurtz’s methods had ruined the district” (Conrad 72).
In-Text Citations – Paraphrasing (MLA)

- I.e. - If the Author’s name is in your sentence: Conrad wrote that “Mr Kurtz’s methods had ruined the district” (72).
According to the Oxford English Dictionary

Verb

1. “Repeat or copy out a passage or remark by another person
2. Mention something as an example to support a point”

(Soanes 839).
To Paraphrase

- ...is to write “essential information and ideas expressed by someone else...in a new form (Welcome to the Purdue OWL)
- re-write the idea in your own words
- do NOT simply replace words
- “change the structure of the passage” (IB 12)
To Summarize

- When you summarize, “you condense an extended idea or argument into a sentence or more in your own words” (Fowler 578)
To paraphrase & summarize

The original passage:

Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. Writing Research Papers. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.

A legitimate paraphrase:

In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester 46-47).

An acceptable summary:

Students should take just a few notes in direct quotation from sources to help minimize the amount of quoted material in a research paper (Lester 46-47).

A plagiarized version:

Students often use too many direct quotations when they take notes, resulting in too many of them in the final research paper. In fact, probably only about 10% of the final copy should consist of directly quoted material. So it is important to limit the amount of source material copied while taking notes.

(Welcome to the Purdue OWL, 2014)