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# Hands-On Citation

— Exploring MLA Style with First-  
Year Students —

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# Background

- Previously: citation workshops offered in partnership with campus Writing Center
  - Workshops had low (or no!) attendance
  - Looking for ways to:
    - Increase attendance
    - Improve outcomes
    - Assess learning
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## Identifying an Opportunity

- Identified a Humanities faculty member who was interested in getting more citing help for students in **introductory** Humanities course
- Created objectives and discussed parameters

that we wanted them to use specific support in their writing, our students do not use enough support in their writing. This tells us that we need to work on helping our students understand what support is, why it is necessary, and how it will help them become better students.

# Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to create correct MLA style bibliography citations in order to document the texts they read in Humanities 120.
2. Students will be able to create correct MLA style in-text citations in order to document the texts they use in their papers for Humanities 120.

***Framework:***

**Information Has Value (Knowledge Practices 1 and 2; Dispositions 1 and 2)**

**Research as Inquiry (Disposition 8)**

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## Our Activity

1. View online Tutorial
  2. Complete graded Pre-class Worksheet
  3. In class:
    - a. Brief lecture
    - b. Group activity on creating citations for bibliography and in-text citing
  4. Complete graded After-class Worksheet
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# Before Class - Step 1

Students given link to  
“MLA Citation Style!”  
tutorial (from ASU)

[https://www.asu.edu/lib/tutorials/storyline/mla-citation-style/story\\_html5.html](https://www.asu.edu/lib/tutorials/storyline/mla-citation-style/story_html5.html)



The image is a screenshot of a digital tutorial interface. At the top, a yellow rounded rectangle contains the text "MLA Citation Style!". Below this is a photograph of a graduation ceremony with many graduates in black caps and gowns, surrounded by numerous yellow and maroon balloons. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a black bar containing three elements: the "ASU Library" logo with "Arizona State University" underneath, the "PRIMO" logo, and a red button with a white arrow pointing right and the word "Start" inside.

# Before Class - Step 2

Complete Pre-Class  
Worksheet and bring  
to class

**PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME HERE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:**

Be sure you have viewed the MLA Citation Style Tutorial ([http://www.asu.edu/lib/tutorials/storyline/mla-citation-style/story\\_html5.html](http://www.asu.edu/lib/tutorials/storyline/mla-citation-style/story_html5.html)) before beginning this Worksheet. Then, use the information you learn in the tutorial to help you complete this Worksheet.

**Question #1**

Here are pieces of information collected from an online article, in no particular order.

- a) 31 Mar. 2010.
- b) *RogerEbert.com*,
- c) Ebert Digital LLC,
- d) [www.rogerebert.com/reviews/clash-of-the-titans-2010](http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/clash-of-the-titans-2010).
- e) "Clash of the Titans."
- f) Ebert, Roger.

Match the letter from above to the correct MLA core element below.

1. Author:
2. Title of the source:
3. Title of the container:

## In Class - Step 1

Brief lecture to help students recall what they learned in the Tutorial and introduce what might be new about citing Humanities texts



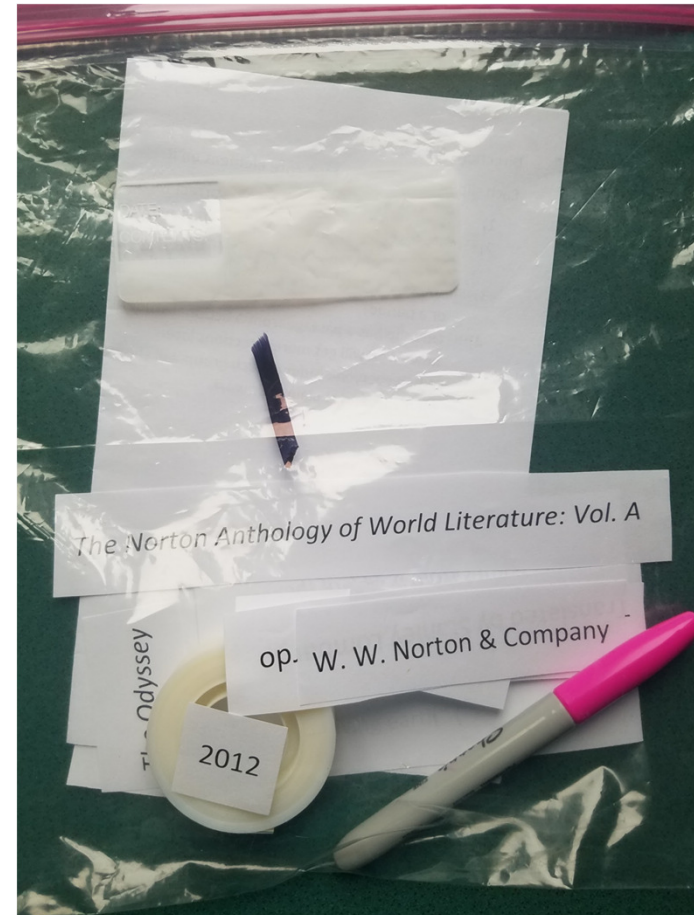
# MLA Citing in the Humanities

Presented by the Harper College Library and Writing Center  
Spring 2018



## In Class - Step 2

Group activity creating citations for a Bibliography and in the body of the paper



# In Class - Step 3

Students left with a handout of help options and all the answers to the in-class activity

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## Getting Help

The Harper College Library and Writing Center can both help with citations.

Library	Writing Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit us in Building F second floor</li><li>• Call with questions: 847-925-6769</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit us in Building F first floor</li><li>• Call for an appointment: 847-925-6796</li></ul>

**Other resources for citing:**

- *MLA Handbook*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition—Harper has copies in the Library and Writing Center; most public libraries will have copies as well
- Other style guides—You may have other types of citing or writing help guides that cover citations. Just be sure they address MLA 8<sup>th</sup> edition.
- OWL at Purdue (Online Writing Lab)—Great online source for MLA style information (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>)
- Google—Style guides don't cover every type of source. The MLA 8<sup>th</sup> edition

## After Class

Students completed  
graded worksheet  
asking them to create a  
citation for a class text

PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME HERE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:**

A) You are a student writing a paper about *The Iliad*. Identify what information you need, and write out the in-text citation. This quote comes from p. 235 in the Norton book (book 1, line 223).

Athena stops Achilles from killing Agamemnon, telling Achilles he will receive “three times as many magnificent gifts” ( ).

B) Now, create the citation that will go in your bibliography for this epic poem. Be

# Assessing Learning

Our plan:

- Examine Pre- and After-class worksheets
  - Finalize rubric for evaluating the citations on student papers
  - Score citations using the rubric
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# Thoughts for the Future

- More or different hands-on practice
- Higher stakes for the worksheets
- Follow up before the paper
- Expand to other classes



## Applying this Activity Elsewhere

- Can easily tailor to other disciplines or types of resources
  - Use class time to more deeply review citation basics instead of going into new information
  - Have students work on easel pads, white boards, or computers instead of manipulating physical paper
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# Thank you!

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