Basics

- Online style manual reference: Purdue OWL, MLA Formatting and Style Guide. (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)

Style Basics

- MLA uses parenthetical citations for all sources, and includes a works cited page at the end of all essays.
- MLA’s parenthetical citation format is (Author, page number). When the sentence includes the author’s name, the name doesn’t have to be in the citation.
  - Example #1 from Purdue OWL: Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).
  - Example #2 from Purdue OWL: Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).
- When citing a play, use act, scene, and line numbers as Arabic numbers.
  - Example from the writing center’s condensed MLA guide: Shakespeare’s Hamlet seems resolute when he declares, “The Play’s the thing / Wherein I’ll catch the conscience of the King” (2.2.633-34).

Format of an Essay

For specific instructions on how to format an MLA essay, see the Purdue OWL’s page: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/. Here are some basic elements to include.

- Introduction
- Main Body
- Conclusion
- Works Cited

Some Suggested Journals and Databases

- Randall Library’s Database and Tutorial Guide for Theatre: http://library.uncw.edu/subjects/theatre
- Arts and Humanities Citation Index
- IIPA (International Index of Performing Arts)
- JSTOR
- Project MUSE

Special Works Cited Entries for Theatre

- Citing a Play
  - If the play was published on its own, cite it like a book. If the play is part of an anthology, cite it as any other work from an anthology.
- Citing a Review (from the Purdue OWL)
  - Review Author. "Title of Review (if there is one)." Rev. of Performance Title, by Author/Director/Artist. Title of Periodical day month year: page. Medium of publication.

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