

Student's Name

TA's name

MMW 12, Section C08

Writing Assignment 1

15 February 2015

Title of Paper

This is a sample paper to show you MLA format. It also includes tips for writing essays in the first-year sequence of the Making of the Modern World (MMW) program. Why are we requiring MLA format in MMW courses? It's a commonly used way to format academic papers in the humanities, and once you learn one format, you can learn any format (and you can count on others being required.) Why does it matter how you format your paper? That's like asking why it matters how you dress. Dress for the occasion, the community, the culture. Do you care what your hair looks like? It's the same as caring about MLA format. Presentation matters. Content matters. They reflect on and shape one another.

The first essay assignment in MMW 12 simply asks you to Read, Think, and Write—without consulting any sources outside of the class and the course readings. No Wikipedia. No Google. Just you, your lecture and section notes, and the readings. Why? Because your thoughts matter, and your ability to engage with other people's writing and respond will develop your thinking and help you express yourself more powerfully. Anyone can look at Wikipedia and tell us what it says, but no one else can think for you and express your thoughts, and that is what matters in this assignment. Maybe your thoughts will be brilliant. Maybe you will articulate a perspective that your TA or professor has not thought of before and finds worthwhile to consider. Maybe you will misunderstand something or not be able to articulate your thoughts

as well as you would like. It's okay. You will get an honest, informed response to your efforts, and you will learn and do better with each assignment. That's the goal.

This assignment asks you to engage with the course readings, lectures, and section discussions and develop a debatable answer to a question. In other words, it asks you to develop an informed opinion and back it up with evidence, reasons, and your acknowledgement and response to other points of view and questions.

The 8 major tasks of the paper are as follows:

1. Raise an issue and engage with your audience to show them the value of addressing the issue and answering the question posed by the assignment.
2. State a claim: Claim=Thesis=Your answer to the question posed by the assignment.
3. Provide reasons backing up your claim. State each reason as a topic sentence for a paragraph (or group of paragraphs). Try to make one point in each paragraph.
4. Back up each of these reasons with evidence. Evidence may include facts, historical context, analysis of texts, and quotations from texts.
5. Consider at least one counterargument—a view that is in conflict with your thesis—and resolve the conflict, showing that you understand the other view, and responding to the issue raised by it. You may, for instance, show the other view's errors in reasoning or support, or show that the conflict is superficial and that there is in fact no conflict.
6. Format the final draft in MLA format, following the Style Sheet.
7. Turn in hard copy in section to your TA—you must turn in the paper in person to your TA on the day it is due in section.
8. Turn in electronic copy to Turnitin.com by midnight on the day hard copy is due in section.

The assignment sheet explains the assignment in detail. Read it. Refer to it often, and use it to check your work. Know your claim, reasons, evidence, counterargument, and response. Sketch them out. Outline them. Draft them. Remember “bird by bird.” Claim, reasons, evidence, counterargument, and response are your birds. Let your ideas flow and find their structure.

For all your essays in MMW, you will have a works cited page. Write it before you write your paper—avoid the last minute rush.

Also cite your sources in the body of the paper as you write, particularly noting page numbers. If you try to add citations in later, you risk missing something and plagiarizing.

This sample essay shows you how to cite your sources in the body of the essay (internal citation) and at the end in a Works Cited page. Here, for example, is how you would cite a page in the *Traditions and Encounters* text, which has 2 authors (Bentley and Ziegler 3). Here’s how you would cite lecture notes when you have more than one citation of lecture notes by the same professor (Chang “Tang”). Here’s how you would do another citation of lecture notes by the same professor (Chang “Silla”). But if you were only citing one lecture by one professor, then you would do it this way (Cohen). Here’s how you would cite the introduction to “The Gospel According to Mark” in *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (Horsley 1791). Here’s material from a website (Dolansky-Overton).

If you mention the title of the work in your sentence, and it has no author, like *Atrahasis*, then you would only put the page number in parentheses (37), but if you did not mention the title of the work in your sentence and it has no author, you would give the title and page number in parentheses (*Atrahasis* 37). If you quote a work that has an author, even if it has been translated,

such as Augustus' *Res Gestae*, cite the author and page number (Augustus 7). The previous example also shows you how to cite a work in the Course Reader.

If you are citing a poetic literary work, like *The Bhagavad-Gita*, then instead of the page number you would put the lesson/chapter and verse number you used in parentheses (2.19). If you did not mention the title of the work in your sentence and it has no author, you would also give the title in parentheses (*Bhagavad-Gita* 2.19).

To cite a verse in the Bible, give the version of the Bible you are using in italics, then book, chapter, and verse (*New Oxford Bible*, Matthew 1.1). If you are citing a Bible passage from the Course Reader, then cite it as a work in the Course Reader, as you would any other work in the reader, except you also need to give the chapter and verse before the page number ("Gospel of Matthew," 4.1, 35). If you are referring to a particular passage in Matthew and mention the name of the book in your sentence, as in "The Gospel of Matthew reports that...", then put the chapter and verse number in parentheses after the quotation or paraphrase, and give the page number, if you are citing from the Course Reader (4.1, 35).

You would cite other sacred texts, such as the *Qur'an*, in a similar manner. However, if you are citing excerpts from the *Qur'an* from an anthology that is itself excerpted in another anthology, then see the Works Cited page in this document (*Qur'an*). You will need to indicate that these are excerpts and provide a citation for the work as a whole. Internally, cite the sections and verses (*Qur'an*, "Sacred Narrative 1," Sura 53.1-18). If you cited the introduction, then you would need to create a separate works cited entry that cross-references the one for the *Qur'an* as a whole (Smart and Hecht).

If you cite a footnote from a page in a source, you need to cite the page number on which the footnote is found, and as a courtesy to your reader, you can also say the material is in a footnote and give the footnote number (“Gospel of Matthew” 35, footnote 1).

If you give the name of the author in the sentence, like Plato, then just put the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence (52).

Cite every source you use for ideas, words (even if it’s just a phrase), and facts. If a fact is common knowledge and easily verified in multiple sources, then you do not have to cite it, but if you use another person’s words for stating the fact or their ideas about the fact, then you do have to quote those words and cite the author of any ideas. When in doubt, cite or ask your TA or professor.

Please note that every source listed on the Works Cited page at the end of this document is also referenced internally in this essay. If the source is listed in the Works Cited, it must actually be cited in the paper. If it is cited in the paper, it must actually be listed in the Works Cited. If a work is used in the paper as a source of words, ideas, or facts, then it must be cited internally in the body of the paper and at the end of the paper in the Works Cited page. Get into the habit of checking your paper to verify that your internal citations match up with your Works Cited page. Establishing this habit will help you avoid accidentally plagiarizing by failing to cite a source.

Also note that the first words in each entry on the Works Cited page are the words you will use in creating the internal citation. Why? This practice makes it easy for your reader to find the source in the Works Cited. If you only have two or three sources, you may not think this rule matters much, but imagine if you were reading an article with 40 works cited, and you wanted to check a citation and the writer had not followed this rule. It would put the burden on

you, the reader, to search through all that material. The rule puts the responsibility on the writer to follow a structure that simplifies reading and researching for everyone.

Guides to MLA format, such as this one, will not show you examples of every possible permutation of MLA. You will find general examples that you can apply to your particular situation. To see many examples and learn how MLA format works in order to determine how to cite your specific sources, use your textbook *A Writer's Reference* and use authoritative websites. Here are 3 good online resources:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/>

<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page363223>

Make the most of your resources. Talk to your TA and Professor, and go to the Writing Center. Make a point of visiting your professor and TA early in the quarter. Go to them with a specific question about the content of the course—either the subject matter or your writing. Also, work with the writing center on your first or second paper—whether you think you need to or not—just to see what the experience is like—like test-driving a car. Explore. Check out all the people who are here to help you and see what you can learn from each person and experience.

Works Cited

Atrahasis. Myths from Mesopotamia. Ed. and trans. Stephanie Dalley. Rev. ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2000. 1-38. Print. **[Anthologized text with no author named & title of a longer text that is italicized (*Atrahasis*); No quotation marks around *Atrahasis* because it is a long work that is typically italicized. Revised edition of a book with an editor and translator (*Myths from Mesopotamia*)]**

Augustus. "Excerpts from *Res Gestae*." Trans. Charles Chamberlain. *MMW 12: Classical and Medieval Tradition*. Comp. Edmond Chang. La Jolla, CA: University Readers. University of California San Diego. Winter 2013. 7-8. Print. **[Selection in the course reader: treat as a selection in an edited anthology, with quotations around the short selection. *Res Gestae* is in italics because it is Latin and the title of a long work. Note the professor's name goes after the title of the course reader. "Comp." stands for "compiler."]**

Bentley, Jerry H., and Herbert F. Ziegler. *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 5th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011. Print. **[Book with two authors; one volume of a multi-volume work.]**

The Bhagavad-Gita. Trans. Barbara Stoler Miller. New York: Bantam, 2004. Print. **[Book with no author named and a translator]**

Chang, Edmond. "Silla Unification in 7th Century Korea." *Making of the Modern World 12*. University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA. 14 February 2013. Lecture. **[Unpublished lecture; if cite more than one lecture by the same person, will need a different works cited reference for each lecture and the internal citation will give a shortened version of the title; find the lecture title on the course syllabus]**

---. "The Tang Bureaucracy." *Making of the Modern World 12*. University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA. 26 February 2013. Lecture. **[For the 2nd reference to an author (Chang, in this case), put 3 hyphens followed by a period.]**

Cohen, Richard. "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex, and More." *Making of the Modern World 12*. University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA. 15 February 2013. Lecture. **[Unpublished lecture; see the previous 2 entries.]**

Dolansky-Overton, Shawna. "The Fall of Eve." [roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmwr](http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmwr/fallofevepd.pdf). *The Making of the Modern World Program*. 15 Jan 2009.
<http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/_files/mmwr/fallofevepd.pdf>. Web. **[Authored document on a website; the url is not required, but you can include it.]**

"Gospel of Matthew." Chapters 4-7. *MMW 12: Classical and Medieval Tradition*. Comp. Edmond Chang. La Jolla, CA: University Readers. University of California San Diego. Winter 2013. 35-42. Print. **[Bible excerpts in course reader; in the body of the paper, cite name of the book, chapter, and verse number]**

Horsley, Richard A. Introduction to "The Gospel According to Mark." *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. 4th ed. PDF file. Course materials, MMW 12, Winter 2015. **[PDF of course material posted on MMW website. See A Writer's Reference, pp. 456-457.]**

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version. Ed. Michael D. Coogan. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2010. Print. **[Book with no author named and an editor; if you were using this source for the Gospel of Matthew, you would cite the whole Bible, as shown here, and then internally give the name of the book, chapter, and verse number]**

Plato. *The Last Days of Socrates*. Trans. Hugh Tredennick and Harold Tarrant. London: Penguin, 2003. Print. **[Book with a named author and with two editors/translators]**

Qur'an. Excerpted in *Sacred Texts of the World*. Eds. Ninian Smart and Richard D. Hecht.

Excerpted in *MMW 12: Classical and Medieval Tradition Course Reader*. Comp.

Richard Cohen. La Jolla, CA: University Readers. University of California San Diego.

Winter 2013. 78-121. Print. **[an excerpt from an excerpt in an anthology]**

Smart, Ninian, and Richard D. Hecht. Introduction. *Qur'an*. 78-82. **[cross-references the entry for the *Qur'an*; therefore, it only needs the title of the source and the page numbers]**

Sweeney, Marvin A. Introduction. Isaiah. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. Ed. Michael D. Coogan. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2010. 965-967.

Print. **[Introduction: cite prefaces, forewords, and afterwords in the same way.]**