Hands-On Citation

Exploring MLA Style with First-Year Students
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
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

[Highlighted text]: 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)
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
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
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) 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,
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.

Getting Help

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Writing Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visit us in Building F second floor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call with questions: 847-925-6769</td>
<td>Visit us in Building F first floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Call for an appointment: 847-925-6796</td>
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Other resources for citing:

- *MLA Handbook, 8th 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 8th edition.
- OWL at Purdue (Online Writing Lab)—Great online source for MLA style information ([https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/))
- Google—Style guides don’t cover every type of source. The MLA 8th edition
After Class

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

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
Thoughts for the Future

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

https://www.flickr.com/photos/crystalflickr/2317183342
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
Thank you!

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