**Why Cite?**

**Why is it important to provide parenthetical citations in your writing?**

1. **It gives credit to the person who published the work:** In order to avoid plagiarism, it is important to clearly acknowledge the person or persons who created or authored the work.
2. **It makes the writing more believable or credible**: Citing research helps the writer gain the reader’s trust. It’s important for the reader to believe that what the author is saying is true.
3. **It’s a courtesy to the reader**: Citing evidence from the reading includes telling the reader where the information came from so that the reader can find the information easily and do additional research if he or she so chooses.
4. **It is an expectation for academic writing:** Scholars engage in academic conversations through writing. Providing parenthetical citations allows these writers to respond to one another by agreeing with, disagreeing with, and adding to another person’s work.

**Implications for the Literacy Design Collaborative Framework**

In order to earn an advanced score on the LDC persuasive and explanatory rubrics, students must provide textual evidence and refer to the sources they use, not only in a bibliography, but also within their writing.

**LDC Argumentation Rubric for Teaching Task**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Advanced | |
| Reading/Research | Demonstrates accurate and *effective use of reading materials to develop argument or proposal…* |
| Development | Develops a detailed and convincing argument or proposal; provides relevant evidence in the form of examples or explanations *with statements from reading material…* |

**LDC Informational or Explanatory Rubric**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Advanced | |
| Reading/Research | Accurately presents and applies information relevant to prompt *with effective selection of sources and details*. L2 *Addresses credibility of sources and identifies uniquely salient sources.* |
| Development | Presents detailed information in order to examine and convey complex topics or issues, answer questions, solve problems; identifies salient themes or features; *concisely explains key information with salient details and connects relevant points among sources, where they agree and disagree…* |

**MLA Style Tips**

* Keep the parenthetical citations brief. Embedding source information directly in the content of the paper, (ie—using the author’s name in the sentence as opposed to the citation) improves the overall flow and readability of the paper.
* In general, end punctuation should be placed outside of the parentheses.

**Examples of Common Formatting**

In general, the author’s name(s) and page number(s) should be listed in the parenthetical citation.

Example: This point has already been argued (Tannen 178-85).

* Author’s Name in Reference with Quote:

Example: It may be true that “in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of

primary importance…” (Robertson 136).

If the author’s name is used in the text, then only the page number needs to be listed in the parenthetical citation.

Example: Tannen has argued this point (178-85).

* Author’s Name in Text with Quote:

Example: It may be true, as Robertson maintains, that “in the appreciation of medieval art the

attitude of the observer is of primary importance…” (136).

If no author is listed, the title of the article or work and page number, *if available,* should be listed.

Example: Even *Sixty Minutes* launched an attack on modern art, in a segment entitled “Yes…but Is It

Art?”

If the student wants to cite a specific definition in a dictionary entry, he or she should give the relevant designation (e.g., number, letter) after the abbreviation *def*.

Example: Milton’s description of the moon at “her highest noon” signifies the “place of the moon at

midnight” (“Noon,” def. 4b).

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.

**Example Sentence Starters for Citing Sources**

* According to (author of source), …
* Research from Smith and Jones (insert authors’ last names) supports that…
* In her article entitled “How to Cite Sources,” (article title) Johnson (author) defines (content-area term) as “insert quote here.”
* In his speech, President Obama argues that…
* In “Cheetahs; How fast are they?” (article title) National Geographic (periodical title) writer, Paul Jones, explains…
* To illustrate this point, Sheila Jackson (author/researcher) uses the following example in her article…
* Biologists (content-area) Marks and Watson (authors/experts) discovered that…