

## ***Lesson Plan: Practice in MLA Documentation for Science Fiction Class***

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**Lesson:** Practice in MLA Documentation

**Timeframe:** 60 minutes

**Target Audience:** Students preparing to write a documented report like a book review

**Materials needed:** markers, whiteboards, print-outs of instructions

**Objectives:** After this lesson, students will be able to

- Punctuate a signal phrase and quotation correctly
- Use parenthetical citations correctly
- Write a work cited entry correctly.

### **Introduction to Lesson [5 minutes]:**

For your book review you will need to show your research with three documented sources of information. The primary source is the book you have read. The other two secondary sources can be either positive or negative reviews by literary critics in the field of Science Fiction, or else historical/biographical/scientific background information. Whether quoted or paraphrased, these sources must be cited using MLA documentation; otherwise, your work will be considered plagiarized. To review the three-step method of MLA documentation, we shall divide into groups for a collaborative writing exercise.

### **Procedure Plan: 55 minutes**

#### **Step One: Reviewing MLA Documentation by demonstrating on the board (5 minutes)**

- Identify quotation with a signal phrase. A signal phrase can be an attributive like “According to Hoyle,” or else it can be an identification tag like “he said/ she said.”
- Place the quoted material in quotation marks and separate the signal phrase from the quotation with a comma after the signal phrase but before the quotation marks.
- Put the page number from which the quotation was taken in parentheses after the close quotes but before the period. If there is no page number, indicate the online source in the signal phrase (for example, “According to the online encyclopedia *Wikipedia*”).
- Use the key word in the signal phrase (usually the author’s last name) to alphabetize your work cited entry, which follow reverse indents (the first line is not indented, but the subsequent lines are). Refer to the book review hand-out at the end of the lesson plan for basic entries.

**Step 2 (5 minutes): Organizing groups of students to write collaboratively**

There should be no more than seven members in each group. Groups can use iPads or chalk, but the final results should be shown to the entire class on the screen or the board. Each group selects one of the problems from the hand-out (found at the end of the lesson plan). Partial credit (85 points) is given if the quotation is set up correctly. Full credit (100 points) if the documentation is correct.

**Step Three (20 minutes): Deciphering source information**

- Each group must translate the information given as a narrative on the handout into correct MLA format.
- Each group assembles the information into a quotation with a signal phrase, parenthetical citation and work cited entry

**Step Four: Editing and Proofreading (10 minutes)**

Students and teacher edit briefly and proofread. Here the teacher helps students place information in correct MLA order. Also the teacher can take the opportunity to explain the meaning and importance of each item of information.

**Step Four: Reviewing documentation [10 minutes]**

Each group presents the final results to the class as a whole.

**Closure and Evaluation: (5 minutes)**

These individual entries represent the various kinds of sources that the students will have to document individually. Have them look closely, take notes or snapshots to use these examples as models for their own documentation. Before ending the exercise, mention online sources or sections of the school handbook or names of school librarians who can help them further.

**Lesson Analysis:**

This classroom exercise is a quick review of what teachers must assume students already have been taught. However much they may have been taught, there may be little that they remember. Some may profess never having been taught documentation at all. For them this exercise will be a crash course. After the exercise, the teacher can refer the students to handbooks and online sources to help them with any individual problem their research may uncover.

(These are the problems that the student groups are to solve. They are arranged with individual instructions to be cut into separate strips so groups can choose their own. There are twelve problems here to accommodate large-forum classes of 100 students, so there will be a dozen groups of eight, the outside maximum for group membership and group reports within an hour's time. The bigger the class, the more effective board work is than iPads since a lot of time is wasted with students plugging and unplugging iPads to show work that would be visible to all on the board.)

#### PARTICIPATION GRADE for Group Work in Documentation (for Book Review)

In groups of six choose one of the following assignments to write on the board for general review.

For 85 points, frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

1. "Only a real artist knows the actual anatomy of the terrible or the physiology of fear."—H. P. Lovecraft from "Pickman's Model" published October, 1927, in *Weird Tales* (Volume 10, Number 4) on p. 506 (2/9 pages). Print.

For 85 points, frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

2. "It was nothing of this earth, but a piece of the great outside." --H. P. Lovecraft from "The Colour Out of Space" found in *Amazing Stories* September, 1927, on page 41 (3/17). Print.

For 85 points, frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

3. "Despite Lovecraft's expressed contempt for mysticism, clearly he was a kind of mystic."—Joyce Carol Oates, editor, from page xv of the introduction to *Tales of H. P. Lovecraft* published in New York by Ecco Press in 1997. Print.

For 85 points, frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

4. "Right now there are two scientists working in Antarctica who can ben [sic] seen wearing the HPLHS' Antarctic Expedition hoodie. " February 2014, accessed on March 2, 2014. "Scientists Go Mad in Antarctica," the H. P. Lovecraft Historical Society. *Cthulu Lives* website.

For 85 points, frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

5. "From even the greatest of horrors irony is seldom absent."—H. P. Lovecraft from "The Shunned House" on page 111 of *At the Mountains of Madness and Other Tales of Terror* published by Ballantine Books of New York in 1991. Print.

For 85 points, frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

6. "The most merciful thing in the world, I think, is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents."—H. P. Lovecraft in "The Call of Cthulhu" on page 139 of *The Call of Cthulhu and Other Weird Stories* published by Penguin Books in New York City in 1999. Print.

For 85 points, frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

7. "It is said that in Ulthar, which lies beyond the river Skai, no man may kill a cat."—H. P. Lovecraft in "The Cats of Ulthar" found on page 66 in *The Doom That Came to Sarnath and Other Stories* published by Ballantine Books in New York City in 1988. Print.

For 85 points frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

8. "Gernsback insisted that the basic tenets of each story be scientifically accurate." By Sam Moskowitz. In "How Science Fiction Got Its Name." on page 1128. Prentice Hall. Garyn G. Roberts, ed. 2005. *The Prentice Hall Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Print.

For 85 points frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

9. "As a playwright, he first attracted attention with *The Glittering Gate* produced in Dublin, 1909." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 1958. "Dunsany, Lord." 28<sup>th</sup> edition. p. 744.

10. For 85 points frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

“Much has been written about who these Elder Gods are. But what has been constant in the discussion is the role of Yog-Sothoth as a doorway to these Old Ones.” Page 265. Llewellyn Publications. Woodbury, Minnesota. T. Allan Belstad. Print. 2009. *The Lovecraft Necronomicon Primer*.

For 85 points frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

11. “While I do not own a cat, I am frequently a host to the young black gentleman, Mr. John Perkins (b. Feby. 14, 1935), who dwells at the boarding-house across the back garden.” H. P. Lovecraft. 2000. Athens, Ohio. page 282. *Lord of a Visible World: An Autobiography in Letters*. University of Ohio Press. S. T. Joshi & David E. Schultz, editors.

For 85 points frame this quotation within a sentence and include its parenthetical citation. For 100 points add the work citation too.

12. “Things began to go wrong with eerie rapidity, a sign of Lovecraft’s seemingly endless store of dreadful luck.” *JSTOR*. 2008. “Lovecraft at the Automat.” Web. 137-150. *New England Review*. Vol. 29. Is. 1. page 139. March 2, 2014. J. M. Tyree.

(On the following page is a sample of basic work cited entries of sources suitable for a book review of a work of science fiction or fantasy. These are models that students can follow when finishing their group work on documentation.)

## Sample Works Cited

### ENCYCLOPEDIA

“Burroughs, Edgar Rice.” *World Book Encyclopedia*. 20 ed. 1970. Print

### DATABASE

Fitzgerald, Jill. “Did SciFi Defuse the Bomb?” *The Futurist*. 25.4 (1999). Expanded

Academic Index. Web. 28 Aug. 2011.

### BOOK

Lovecraft, H. P. *At the Mountains of Madness and Other Tales of Terror*.

New York: Ballentine Books- Del Rey, 1991. Print

### WEBSITE

Peterson, Susan Lynn. “The Life of H. G. Wells.” Susan Lynn Peterson. 2010. Web.

9 Mar.

2010. .

### JOURNAL ARTICLE

Wood, Michael. “Broken Dates: Science Fiction and the Century.” *Kenyon Review*.

22. 3

(2008): 50-64. Print

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BOOK REVIEW WORK SHEET

For a participation grade, fill in the following details to use as notes for the in-class book review.

AUTHOR:

TITLE:

SYNOPSIS:

TIME?

PLACE?

MAIN CHARACTER?

PLOT CONFLICT?

THEME:

EVALUATION:

MAIN STRENGTH?

MAIN WEAKNESS?

QUOTATIONS:

PRIMARY SOURCE

SECONDARY SOURCE

WORK CITATIONS