Citation stuff

**WHAT is it?**

AUCA FYS/EC and SYS courses *require* **MLA citation**.

Citation is important because it shows

1. the student’s ability to use other people’s sources in their works

2. and it protects the student against **PLAGIARISM** (‘Plagiarism’ doc)

Citation is a **factual** matter – you either do it right, or you do it incorrectly. So, you need to know exactly HOW to do it right**. Copy and pasting and using online citation generators often DO NOT WORK properly.**

All the student needs to do is FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.

MLA citation has TWO PARTS – both are important and necessary

1. **In-text** citation – within the body of an essay, properly giving credit for words that aren’t your own….

2. **Works-cited** citation – a list of external resources used in the student essay, which MUST be included at the end of the essay, after the text. This is often also called a ‘bibliography.’

**HOW to cite**

The *English A Handbook* (available on the eCourse) is a resource available to the student that shows how to properly cite external research in the required MLA format.

This information begins on **page 100** of the book.

**Works-Cited Citation**

The *English A Handbook* is excellent on **works-cited** citation, see **pg 105 ff**.

The best way to learn this is to

1. start with the easiest model, a book by a single author

2. then an article by a single author

3. then use a REFERENCE WORK like *the English A Handbook* for all the other possibilities – and FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

**Unfortunately, *the English A Handbook* is very, very poor on in-text citation. So, I have written the following material to help the student do proper in-text citation.**

**In-Text Citation**: models and examples

The task of in-text citation is to point the reader to the EXACT place he or she needs to go in the original text to find what is written. SO, one must **be as accurate as possible**.

NOTE – the **page number** in in-text citation is the page of the TEXT itself – **NOT** **the page of** **the PdF file** – they can be different, so be careful!

The basic format – the easiest – is (author’s last name, page)

“Blah, blah, blah,” (Jackson, p 35).

“Blah, blah, blah,” (Poole, p 556).

NOTE – after the quote “xxxxx” there is a COMMA – NOT a period, then ( ) and within them, the author if you have it, page or other specific notation, then).

“Blah, blah, blah,” (Wolf, p 16).

“Blah, blah, blah,” (Hart, p 567).

NOTE – the NAME of the AUTHOR is NOT in italics.

**Pay attention to the commas, periods, and other punctuation**.

“Blah, blah, blah,” (Latour, p 34). The author’s name is Latour. His family name is Latour. If you were to write “blah, blah, blah,” (Bruno, p 34), you are wrong. You all need to be very careful about that – I have edited several academic essays from people from Afghanistan, Iraq and Kyrgyzstan who make mistakes here.

**If you have the author, you MUST use his or her family name,** but if you don’t – use the title of the work:

“Blah,” (Smith, p 44).

“Blah,” (*Epic of Gilgamesh*, p 7)

SOME texts were written many years ago and in another language and have been translated many times, for example, *the* *Epic of Gilgamesh*, *the Meditations* of Marcus Aurelias, Christine de Pizan’s *the Book of the City of Ladies* and others.

In citing works like this, the student must give the additional information, Tablet number and line in *the Epic of Gilgamesh*, section in *the Confessions* of Augustine… these are at the EDGE of the page – AND the PAGE NUMBER AS WELL.

Look at the examples from *the Epic of Gilgamesh* and *the Analects* of Confucius above.

POETRY also sometimes uses something more specific than just a page number.

“Blah, blah, blah,” (Aristophanes, ln 555, p 64).

NOTE – **if there is nothing more specific than only a page number on the page, DO NOT USE ANYTHING**:

**INCORRECT**: “Blah, blah, blah,” (Woolf, paragraph 2, p 29).

CORRECT: “Blah, blah, blah,” (Woolf, p 29).

**PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO PUNCTUATION.**

Use **ONLY the amount of citation that is necessary to prove your point**: do NOT waste space and word count with unnecessary citation. You MUST use … to show that you have dropped some words that are unnecessary to prove your argument:

“Blah, blah, blah … blah, blah, blah,“ (Augustine, p 33).

If your citation begins in the middle of a sentence and in YOUR essay, it is the beginning of one, we MUST use a capital letter:

“[B]lah, blah., blah,” (*the Bhagavad Gita*, p 36).

Again, see *English A Handbook* p 105 ff for works-cited.