

# MLA DOCUMENTATION STYLE (4<sup>th</sup> EDITION)

The Modern Language Association's documentation style makes citing sources effortless with a series of parenthetical notes and a single *works cited* page at the document's end. Listed below are sample citations that one will use most frequently; however, for a complete guide to MLA style consult your English handbook or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, fourth edition.

- *Quotations within the document's text are cited in parentheses containing only the author's name and page number:*

Rushdie believes that "redescribing the world is the first step towards changing it"—to replace the migrant's "triple disruption" of place, language, and social norms with a new language of displacement and mongrelization (Prasch 312).

- *Or, if the author is named within the text, only the page number need be cited:*

Jussawalla suggests that Rushdie is disavowing any solidarity with people of the Third World because he has essentially become assimilated into a British colonial citizen and has adopted an Orientalist perspective (112-4).

- *If citing more than one source by the same author, use an abbreviated form of the work's title—usually the first noun in the title:*

He was accepted by the *whites*: "he fooled them into thinking that he was *okay*, he was *people like us*" (*Verses* 43).

- *End notes are used only for comments or explanation, never for citation. A Works Cited page appears at the end of the document. References are given in alphabetical order and the names of books either underlined or italicized (preferably the latter if you are using a computer); whichever you choose, use it consistently throughout, e.g.:*

## Works Cited

Jussawalla, Feroza. "Resurrecting the Prophet: The Case of Salman, the Otherwise." *Public Culture* Vol. 2 no. 1 (1989): 106-117.

Kennedy, X.J., Dorothy M. Kennedy, and Sylvia A. Holladay, eds. *The Bedford Guide for College Writers*. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin Press, 1993.

Prasch, Thomas. "Contested Ground: Center and Margin in Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*." *West Virginia University Philological Papers* Vol. 38 (1992): 39-45.

Rushdie, Salman. *The Satanic Verses*. New York: Viking/Penguin, 1988.