MLA: *In-text Citations*

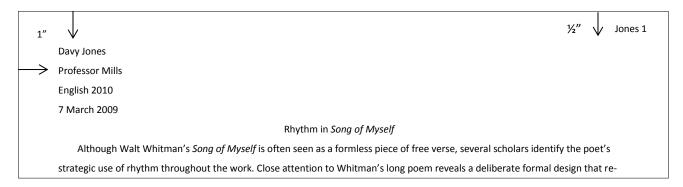*Note: This document should only be used as a reference and should not replace assignment guidelines.*

Pages below refer to the MLA Handbook, 7ᵗʰ ed.

Heading and Paper Format (116-118)

MLA uses a four-line heading on the top left of the first page only that includes your name, your professor's name, the name of the course, and the date. Include your last name followed by the page number on the top right of every page. Unless one is requested by your instructor, MLA generally does not use a cover page.

Use a clear, readable 12-point font. Double-space the whole document, including the heading, the title, and the Works Cited page. Use one-inch margins throughout.

1"   ½"   Jones 1

Davy Jones

Professor Mills

English 2010

7 March 2009

Rhythm in *Song of Myself*

Although Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself* is often seen as a formless piece of free verse, several scholars identify the poet's strategic use of rhythm throughout the work. Close attention to Whitman's long poem reveals a deliberate formal design that re-

---

In-text Citations (216-232)

MLA uses the author-page number system for in-text citations. The page number must be included for each direct quote as well as for instances of summary and paraphrase that come from narrow parts of the source. You may also include the title of the work in your signal phrase.

MLA allows you to introduce your quotation, paraphrase, or summary with the author's name in a signal phrase and put the page number at the end in parenthesis, or to put both the author's name and page number at the end in parenthesis:

- **Quotation: Author's name in signal phrase, page number in parenthesis**

  In his work on Whitman's *Song of Myself*, Roger Mitchell argues, "Whitman is doing more than simply distributing a pattern of groups in some sensible fashion over the lines of a poem" (16).

- **Quotation: Author's name and page number in parenthesis**

  One critic argues, "Whitman is doing more than simply distributing a pattern of groups in some sensible fashion over the lines of a poem" (Mitchell 16).

- **Summary: Author's name in signal phrase, page number in parenthesis**

  Roger Mitchell contends that Whitman makes more intentional use of rhythmic patterns than many critics give him credit for (16).

- **Paraphrase: Author's name and page number in parenthesis**

  In *Song of Myself*, one scholar makes the case that Whitman distributes his rhythmic patterns in groups to reflect the internal progression of the poem (Mitchell 16).

WRITING CENTER

Multiple/No Authors Given (215, 223-224)

In cases where a source has two or three authors, list all the authors in the order they appear on the title page separated by an commas and an "and," followed by the page number:

> According to one source, Whitman's rhythmic organization in *Song of Myself* is highly reflective of its content (Ashcroft, Nicholls, and Barnes 28).

Most reputable peer-reviewed sources will have a named author or a corporate author (an organization or government entity). In cases where no author is named, use title of the source in place of the author:

> Whitman's structure in his longest poem suggests his desire to answer Emerson's call to revolutionize the American poetic tradition ("Introduction to *Song of Myself*" 14).

Block Quotations (94)

Direct quotes that are more than four lines in length need to be set apart in a block. Double-space them and indent them one inch from the set margin. Quotation marks are not used (except to denote quotations within the quote) and the final punctuation is placed before the parenthetical citation. Your own words should introduce and follow the block quote. (See below.)

Citing Indirect Sources (226)

To cite information that your source has borrowed from a secondary or indirect source, use the author of the secondary source in your signal phrase and use the author and page number of the work you found the material in after the phrase "qtd. in" for the parenthetical citation. (See below.)

Jones 1

Davy Jones

Professor Mills

English 3040

7 September 2012

Rhythm *in Song of Myself*

Although Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself* is often seen as a formless piece of free verse, several scholars identify the poet's strategic use of rhythm throughout the work. Close attention to Whitman's long poem reveals a deliberate formal design that reflects its subject matter.

One study of the poem suggests that he made many of his 1891 revisions to underscore the function of each section as a unit of meaning governed by its own rhythm (Strauch 64).

Roger Mitchell also notes Whitman's use of rhythmic groups:

> Whitman is doing more than simply distributing a pattern of groups in some sensible fashion over the lines of a poem, creating what some critics are calling a

---

Jones 2

> "group/line pattern." Whitman is also conscious of the size of his groups and of their progression in terms of size pattern. (16)

Mitchell's analysis demonstrates Whitman's care in rhythmic organization.

Critics also argue that Whitman's use of rhythm is intricately connected to his intention that, despite its self-referential title, the poem represent a wide swath of humanity. Edward Dowden claims that "No single person is the subject of Whitman's song, or can be; the individual suggests a 'group sized pattern' and possesses equal claims to recognition" (qtd. in Mason 34).

Indirect Source

Parenthetical Quotation

Block Quotation