



Documenting Sources in MLA

The following lines are taken from page 7 of Annie Dillard's book *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*:

Cruelty is a mystery, and the waste of pain. But if we describe a world to compass these things, a world that is a long, brute game, then we bump against another mystery: the inrush of power and light, the canary that sings on the skull. Unless all ages and races of men have been deluded by the same mass hypnotist (who?), there seems to be such a thing as beauty, a grace wholly gratuitous.

The following examples show the appropriate format (with punctuation) of four possible ways to incorporate this material into your essay:

	<i>A direct quotation...</i>	<i>A paraphrase...</i>
<i>...introduced with the author's name</i>	Against a vision of the world as "a long, brute game," Annie Dillard suggests that there also "seems to be such a thing as beauty, a grace wholly gratuitous" (7).	Annie Dillard points out that the world can seem senseless and cruel, but she reminds us that it also seems senselessly beautiful (7).
<i>...not introduced with the author's name</i>	It is possible to think of the world as "a long, brute game," but we must then also acknowledge that "there seems to be such a thing as beauty, a grace wholly gratuitous" (Dillard 7).	The world can seem senseless and cruel, but it is also senselessly beautiful (Dillard 7).

If a quotation fills more than four lines of your text, format it as follows:

- Indent ten spaces (two tabs) from the left margin (but still double-space)
- Do not use quotation marks
- Place the parenthetical citation after the final period

Cruelty is a mystery, and the waste of pain. But if we describe a world to compass these things, a world that is a long, brute game, then we bump against another mystery: the inrush of power and light, the canary that sings on the skull. Unless all ages and races of men have been deluded . . . there seems to be such a thing as beauty, a grace wholly gratuitous. (Dillard 7)

The Works Cited page

Any sources which you quote or paraphrase in your text must appear on a separate page entitled Works Cited at the end of your paper.

- List only works you have quoted or paraphrased (do not list those which you have read but not cited).
- List your sources alphabetically using the authors' last names. Do not number your entries or place bullets in front of them.
- Each entry begins at the left margin (no indentation). If an entry fills more than one line of text, indent each additional line five spaces (one tab).
- Double-space each entry and between each entry, meaning don't add an extra space after each entry.

The following examples show the precise punctuation for some of the more common kinds of sources you might list on a Works Cited page. Note: these examples reflect correct punctuation, but they do not show correct indentation or spacing (see above).

A book	Dillard, Annie. <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> . New York: Harper & Row, 1988.
An article in a monthly magazine	Dillard, Annie. "The Wreck of Time." <i>Harper's</i> . Jan. 1998: 51-56.
An article in a weekly magazine	Winerip, Michael. "Schizophrenia's Most Zealous Foe." <i>New York Times Magazine</i> 22 Feb. 1998: 26-29.
An article in a daily newspaper	Farah, Douglas. "Talk Show Helps Knit El Salvador." <i>Washington Post</i> 17 Jan. 1998: A23+.