ENGL 1101/2

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Quoting MLA Style

MLA (Modern Language Association) is a style of citation that is used by the humanities. Other disciplines use other styles, but MLA is the one you will be using in this class. It works like this:

When quoting another author in an essay, use quotation marks and cite the page number, like this:

In “Beyond the Cult of Fatherhood,” David Osborne writes, “I’m not a househusband; I take Nick to day care five days a week. But I come about as close to house-husbandry as I care to” (297).

Notice that I’ve included the name of the author in my introduction to the quote. If you do not introduce the author, you need to include the author’s name in parentheses along with the page number:

Trying to balance a career and a family can be especially difficult for women today. That difficulty “is perhaps the central unresolved conflict in the lives of American women today” (Osborne 302).

If your quotation is longer than 4 typed lines on your page, you must block it. To set up a “block quote,” simply introduce the passage, and then indent ten spaces for the quotation:

Virginia Woolf’s description of “The Angel in the House” helps to illustrate the kinds of conflicts that many women have to fight when trying to balance career and family:

You who come from a younger and happier generation may not have heard of her – you may not know what I mean by the Angel in the House. I will describe her as shortly as I can. She was immensely sympathetic. She was immensely charming. She was utterly unselfish. She excelled in the difficult arts of family life. She sacrificed herself daily. If there was chicken, she took the leg; if there was a draught, she sat in it – in short she was so constituted that she never had a mind or a wish of her own, but preferred to sympathize always with the minds and wishes of others. Above all – I need not say it – she was pure. (293)

This “Angel,” as Woolf goes on to demonstrate, was the chief source of conflict in her daily attempt to write.

\*\*\*Note: Block quotes should be double-spaced. This example is single-spaced only to keep the handout at one page.

The other thing that MLA style requires is a Works Cited page. On a separate page at the end of your essay, you need to include the following bibliographical information. Each author you cited in your essay also needs to be cited in your Works Cited page, and the page should look like this:

Works Cited

Milgram, Stanley. “The Perils of Obedience.” *Writing and Reading Across the Curriculum*.

Ninth Edition. Laurence Behrens and Leonard J. Rosen, eds. New York: Longman, 2005.

313-325.