English 151B
Writing a Works Cited Citation

An important element of a research paper is the listing of all of the sources that were used in writing the paper. These sources are named (cited) within the paper and are also named (cited) on a separate page titled “Works Cited” or at the end of the paper in a section that is titled “Works Cited.”

Look at the end of the model essay in Chapter 19 (Recognizing a Research Paper) of your textbook Mosaics for an example of a “Works Cited” section. Notice that each source used in the research paper is listed and each listing follows a specific format which presents bibliographical information (author, title, publication, type of source, etc.) that would be needed in order for a reader to find the source. This bibliographical information must appear in a specific order. For example, the author’s name appears first, with other information following.

Knowing how to prepare a Works Cited page or Works Cited section is an important skill. Because there are so many different sources of information, it’s not possible for most students to have all the formats memorized. In addition, there are different kinds of formats. For lab assignments you will be using the format used by the Modern Language Association (MLA). Because of these differences, students need to know what guides to consult in order to put the bibliographical information in the correct order.

The following guides can be consulted in order to complete the lab assignments which require you to write a Works Cited citation:

For a general discussion, read Chapter 22 (Documenting Sources) in the textbook Mosaics.

For an excellent general summary of MLA format, consult the format guide on the Ohlone Library homepage. Go to “Library Guides” which can be found under Research Assistance. On the library guide page, go to “Browse Guides by Subject,” click on “Citing Sources and Plagiarism,” then click on “Citing Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism.” View “Citation Guides.” Under this section you can see an example of MLA format.

For more detailed information, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Eighth Edition. Copies are in the library and in the English Learning Center.

Internet searches are also a source of MLA formatting guidelines. Be sure you are using the eighth edition guidelines. A good Internet source for MLA guidelines is the one maintained by Purdue University (http://owl.english.purdue.edu).