

Writing Expectations

Writing Conventions:

- Third person
- Present tense
- Strong Verbs - list
- **Limit to be verbs:**
(am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been, have, has, had, do, does, did)
- No contractions
- Spell numbers under 20
- Subject verb agreement
- Use sentence variety
- Use of transitions to add cohesion
- Show us don't tell us

Content for Interpretive Responses:

Each response needs to do the following:

1. Make a clear claim (reference title/author and clear topic sentence...you can restate the prompt/question)
2. Provide *relevant* supporting evidence (build context for the reader- give details)
3. Provide *pertinent* examples (text evidence/in-text citations-2 ex)
4. Conclusion with insight (commentary, give an opinion, observation, etc.)

In-text citations: (author page) style

(also known as parenthetical citations, text evidence, direct quotes)

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation.

This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page.

The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.

***The punctuation comes *after* the citation.**

Examples:

Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).

Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

MLA 8 Citation for referenced works: (use [Purdue Owl MLA Style Introduction for reference](#))

Format:

Works Cited

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

(punctuation matters!)

***If a book is published before 1900 use the city of publication. Books published after 1900 no longer require city of publication.*

Example:

Works Cited

Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. Penguin, 1987.

Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. MacMurray, 1999.