

NOTES: 2/14/12

Tonight→*Assign. #2 Due—The Effective Paragraph* (typed; 1 paragraph)

Review Objectivity/ Discuss Objective Report

Read pp. **378-381** “Understanding Plagiarism”

p. **382-385** “Documenting Sources Responsibly”

p. **391-393** “When to Quote”/”How to Quote” etc.

p. **394-396** Quotation Best Practices & continued MLA citation discussion

First, let’s finish up the MLA notes from last week (2/7/12), specifically:

- Long quotations (4 or more lines)
- Formatting issues
- In-text citations for web documents, web pages
- Discuss list of “Works Cited”
- [Let’s discuss Citationmachine.net](#)
- [Now, let’s look for “Make Citation” button in journal interfaces](#)
- “Control T” turns standard wrap text into appropriate Works Cited format

MLA in-text citations—signal phrases & parenthetical information

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

Examples:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

MLA bibliography/Works cited

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>

LOOKING AHEAD (I know we’ve not yet done assignment #3)

Assignment #4: Objective Report (due 3/20/12)

Here's your chance to *begin* taking a look at factual details of the subject you plan to tackle for your final persuasive paper (when you will take a stance on the issue). **Select your issue; begin to look at both sides of the issue.**

I. Start with a Lead Paragraph—descriptive/narrative, cumulative, question, 5-W, provocative, etc.
(we'll look at these examples today)
a. By the end of the first or second paragraph, we should know what the issue is specifically.

II. Determine your audience

a. Choose an objective voice: Objective formal, objective informal, objective first person
(we'll discuss these today)

III. Include factual details: include nothing speculative here. This assignment should involve no
personal commentary (remember, you're being objective).

IV. Keep a running list of your sources: internet, newspaper, etc. Put these rough citations (title of the web page and hyperlink or newspaper title, article title, date, and page) at the end of your second assignment. Next time, we will discuss how to turn these into proper MLA citations (both in-text and the works cited list) citations, along with the next major segment: finding a thesis.)

V. Look at the examples below for reference.

- a. How do they handle their material (**we'll discuss this today and next week**).
- b. Is there evidence of emotion or bias that might harm credibility as an authority? (We want to avoid this—even in the persuasive paper.)
- c. Who do they use as their sources? Are they relevant and credible?

Describe the issue to the reader, unemotionally. Present facts, and let these facts speak for themselves. Remember being concrete? Remember showing (revealing details) rather than telling (how these details should be interpreted)? This is exactly what objectivity is. Show people factual details that others can verify. These details will condemn or support on their own, without requiring the writer's commentary.



Stories arise out of **CONFLICT**
(two or more opposing forces meet head on).

OR

Stories arise out of **CHANGE**
(*change causes discomfort and often, conflict*).



Why this picture? Nope, he's not watching a really fast tennis match.
Things are just moving so fast, his head is spinning.

TWO EXAMPLES of an OBJECTIVE REPORT (DRAFT vs. REVISION)

Color Key:

5-W Lead

Conflict

Supporting Background Research

Third Party Interview—University Response

Conclusion

Smoking Debate hits New South College

Darlene Grimes wants to ban smoking everywhere on the New South campus by next fall. Grimes is a senior majoring in Women's Studies whose mother and uncle both died from lung cancer attributed to smoking. "I have the right to be free from other people's smoke anywhere I go," Grimes claims. "Even if I'm sitting by the fountain or under a tree, no one has a right to harm my health," she said, strongly.

Student Government President Ronnie Phelan is equally determined to stop Grimes' proposal. Phelan has smoked Marlboros since he was in high school in New Jersey, and he argues that smoking is legal, and therefore he has the right to smoke if he chooses to. "I support banning smoking indoors because in an enclosed environment other may be forced against their will to inhale someone else's smoke. But that is not true indoors. If I sit on the fountain, then Grimes is not forced to sit next to me or even within a hundred yards of me or any other smoker. She can claim she has a right to sit on the fountain, but she can't claim that her right supersedes others'. We all have rights."

The July 1997 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) reports on a major study on second-hand smoking. The researchers found that second-hand smoke in closed areas provides almost as much nicotine, tar, and other additives to the non-smoker as it does to the smoker. Other studies, according to the article, have not found as much serious damage, but the control groups in the other studies were often inadequately controlled. This may be a bias of the authors. How are we to know? Maybe they didn't like the other authors. I interviewed Benjamin Crown, who said, "I sympathize with both sides of the argument, but at present, the university is not prepared to take action on the issue. A lot of students still smoke, of course, but more and more, it seems to me, have given it up. I doubt if it will ever go away entirely. A few years ago, we recommended to the Board of Trustees that all university buildings should be smoke free, and the Trustees approved. But I'm not sure the support is there for the next step. Even some of the

Board smoke and the issue may be too difficult to find a consensus on at the present time.”

Benjamin Crown is dean of student affairs at New South College. He has a PhD in psychology from the University of Nebraska and has been dean here for nine years. He seemed very nice about it all but didn't seem to have the authority to make a decision. *Newsweek* and *Time* magazines both have September 1997 issues in which second-hand smoking is discussed.

Both mention the American Medical Association article and *Time* calls it the first definitive study. *Newsweek* reports that the movement “toward forcing smokers outdoors, may now be forcing them to hide in their cars in the parking lot.”

The problem with ever-increasing prohibitions against smoking may be that we will make smoking more attractive by making it more forbidden.

Smoking Debate hits New South College (REVISED)

Darlene Grimes wants to ban smoking everywhere on the New South campus by next fall. Grimes is a senior majoring in Women's Studies whose mother and uncle both died from lung cancer attributed to smoking. “I have the right to be free from other people's smoke anywhere I go,” Grimes claims. “Even if I'm sitting by the fountain or under a tree, no one has a right to harm my health,” she said, strongly.

Student Government President Ronnie Phelan is equally determined to stop Grimes' proposal. A smoker since high school, Phelan argues that smoking is legal, and therefore he has the right to smoke if he chooses to. While he agrees that smoking indoors may infringe on other's rights, he feels this is not true outside, where people can move away from smokers.

“If I sit on the fountain, then Grimes is not forced to sit next to me or even within a hundred yards of me or any other smoker,” said Phelan. “She can claim she has a right to sit on the fountain, but she can't claim that her right supersedes others'.”

The July 1997 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) reported that a major study revealed that second-hand smoke in closed areas provides almost as much nicotine, tar, and other additives to the non-smoker as it does to the smoker, indicating that Grimes' concerns are justified. However, the New South College conflict has elevated the issue of personal freedom above

health concerns. The central issue has become which party must make concessions when someone lights up, the smoker or the non-smoker?

Dr. Benjamin Crown, dean of student affairs at New South College for the last 9 years, expressed his sympathy for both sides, but noted that his hands were tied. “At present, the university is not prepared to take action on the issue.”

Crown also indicated that the smoking ban is an issue determined by the Board of Trustees. Previously, on Crown’s and other’s recommendation, the Trustees did declare that campus buildings must be smoke free. However, Crown is skeptical that sufficient Trustee backing exists to extend this ban to the entire campus. “Even some of the Board smoke,” he said, “and the issue may be too difficult to find a consensus on at the present time.”

The issue is currently dead-locked with no anticipated intervention by college officials. Phelan remains adamant, indicating that he will not back down. “We all have rights,” he said, again revealing that the issue is just as much about civil liberties as it is about cigarette smoke.

* * * *

Now, let’s look at:

p. 378-381 “**Understanding Plagiarism**”

pp. 382-385 “**Documenting Sources Responsibly**”

pp. 391-393 “**When to Quote**”/”**How to Quote**” etc.

- Take care to distinguish between:
 - **background** or commonly known facts in the field that you can assume your audience already knows (e.g., "Radio has evolved into an incredibly portable and music-based medium"). Your own knowledge acquired from a course makes *you* a great source of such background data!
 - **other not-so-commonly-known facts** such as some unbelievable statistic you found that you'll have to cite at the point of discussion (e.g., "Research has shown that 95% of students listen to the radio while they study")
 - **opinions** which are usually the most contentious of all. If Dr. Z "believes" something is the case, then record that he believes it.

Safe Practices/Avoiding Plagiarism: Writing Direct Quotations

- Keep the source author's name in the same sentence as the quote
- Mark the quote with quotation marks, or if it is 4 or more lines, set it off from your text in its own block
- Quote no more material than is necessary; if a short phrase from a source will suffice, don't quote an entire paragraph
- To shorten quotes by removing extra information, use ellipsis points (...) to indicate omitted text, keeping in mind that:
 - Three ellipsis points indicates an in-sentence ellipsis, and four points for an ellipsis between two sentences
 - To give context to a quote or otherwise add wording to it, place added words in brackets, []; be careful not to editorialize or make any additions that skew the original meaning of the quote—do that in your main text, e.g.:
 - **OK:** Kozol claims there are "savage inequalities" in our educational system, which is obvious.
 - **WRONG:** Kozol claims there are "[obvious] savage inequalities" in our educational system.
- Use quotes that will have the most rhetorical, argumentative impact in your paper; too many direct quotes from sources may weaken your credibility, as though you have nothing to say yourself, and will certainly interfere with your style

LAST THING TONIGHT→

Example #2: Objective *Informal* Reporting

(a story about rapid *change* and the *conflict* that develops from it)

Original picture from the story, so we know who the players are:



From left, Dawn Spinner Davis, Christine Cameron, Laney Crowell, Alexandra Pennington and Megan Petrus, members of Dating a Banker Anonymous.

The New York Times
“It’s the Economy, Girlfriend”
RAVI SOMAIYA”

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/28/nyregion/28daba.html?pagewanted=all>

(So first, let’s figure out how to MLA document this article in Works Cited format....Let’s turn to our textbook....and then, the ever delightful www.citationmachine.net)

LEAD (type: narrative/cumulative interest):

(first example) The economic crisis came home to 27-year-old Megan Petrus early last year when her boyfriend of eight months, a derivatives trader for a major bank, proved to be more concerned about helping a laid-off colleague than comforting Ms. Petrus after her father had a heart attack.

(second example) For Christine Cameron, the recession became real when the financial analyst she had been dating for about a year would get drunk and disappear while they were out together, then accuse her the next day of being the one who had absconded.

(third example) Dawn Spinner Davis, 26, a beauty writer, said the downward-trending graphs began to make sense when the man she married on Nov. 1, a 28-year-old private wealth manager, stopped playing golf, once his passion. “One of his best friends told me that my job is now to keep him calm and keep him from dying at the age of 35,” Ms. Davis said. “It’s not what I signed up for.”

(OBJECTIVITY: her quote tells us a lot of about her, no? Because the author offers no obvious commentary on her statement, it's still objective. She presents a portrait of herself—and the group as a whole--with her own words.)

(Information about the CAUSE of their woe) They shared their sad stories the other night at an informal gathering of Dating a Banker Anonymous, a support group founded in November to help women cope with the inevitable relationship fallout from, say, the collapse of Lehman Brothers or the Dow's shedding 777 points in a single day, as it did on Sept. 29.

(Information about their outlet) In addition to meeting once or twice weekly for brunch or drinks at a bar or restaurant, the group has a blog, billed as “free from the scrutiny of feminists,” that invites women to join “if your monthly Bergdorf's allowance has been halved and bottle service [Savannah explains: this has nothin' to do with baby bottles. This is a reserved table and sale of liquor *by the bottle* at nightclubs] has all but disappeared from your life.”

Theirs is not the typical 12-step program. (**←Why this is an informal report: light humor/puns. The voice is *not formal* as it would be in a standard financial report.**)

Step 1: Slip into a dress and heels.

Step 2: Sip a cocktail and wait your turn to talk.

Step 3: Pour your heart out.

Repeat as needed.

Who's Involved?: About 30 women, generally in their mid- to late-20s, regularly post to the web site or attend meetings.

.... (some of the article omitted here for sake of space & sanity)....

Background & further definition of the issue's individual impact: Once it was seen as a blessing in certain circles to have a wealthy, powerful partner who would leave you alone with the credit card while he was busy brokering deals. Now, many Wall Street wives, girlfriends and, increasingly, exes, are living the curse of cutbacks in nanny hours and reservations at Masa [a high-end Japanese restaurant in the Time Warner Center, NYC] or Megu [a mid-town Manhattan sushi bar]. And that credit card? Canceled.

Use of subject authority quotes: Raoul Felder, the Manhattan divorce lawyer, said that cases involving financiers always stack up as the economy starts to slip, because layoffs and shrinking bonuses place stress on relationships — and, he said, because “there aren’t funds or time for mistresses anymore.”

Anecdote/Illustrative Example: (One such mistress wrote on the blog that when she pouted about not having been taken on a trip lately, her married man explained that with money so tight, his wife had taken to checking up on his accounts.)

Use of subject authority quotes: Harriet Pappenheim, a psychotherapist at Park Avenue Relationship Consultants who wrote —*For Richer or Poorer*, a 2006 book on money in marriage, said that the repercussions could be acute for Wall Street wunderkinds who define their identities through their job titles and the size of their bonuses. “It’s a big blow to their egos and to their self-esteem,” she said of the endless stream of economic bad news, “and they may take it out on their partners and children.”

Quote from person involved: Ms. Petrus, a lawyer, and Ms. Crowell, who works for a fashion web site, started the support group when they realized that they were facing similar problems in their relationships with bankers last fall.

Quote from person involved: “We put two and two together and figured out that it was the economy, not us,” Ms. Petrus recalled at a recent meeting in the lobby bar of the Bowery Hotel. “When guys in banking are going through this, they can’t handle a relationship.” (She and her boyfriend split up last year; he declined to discuss it.)

Paraphrase of women involved: Many of the women said that as the economic crisis struck last fall, they began tracking the markets during the day to predict the moods that the men they loved might be in later. On big news days, like when the first proposed government bailout failed in Congress, or when Lehman went belly-up, they knew that plans to see their partners would be put off.

Quote from person involved: “I was like, ‘O.K. I signed up for that, it’s fine,’” said Ms. Cameron. “But all of a sudden,” she said, her boyfriend ‘couldn’t focus. If he stayed over he’d be up at some random hour checking his BlackBerry, Bloomberg and CNBC.”

Paraphrase of women involved: Ms. Cameron said that she and her boyfriend broke up at the end of November but that they still saw each other occasionally.

.... (some of the article omitted here for sake of space & sanity)....

(OBJECTIVITY: looking at the opposite side; fairness...is there enough here?) Brandon Davis, Ms. Spinner Davis's husband of almost three months, acknowledged in a **recent telephone interview** that his new job was "certainly more stressful and there's certainly more pressure" because of the economy, but disagreed that such stresses had affected his home life. He did not want to talk about golf.

More paraphrasing: Some women in the group said the men in their lives had gone from being aloof and unattainable to unattractively needy and clinging. Others complained of being ignored — one, who called herself A.P., wrote on the blog that three weeks had passed without her boyfriend "asking a single question" about her life. **Another wrote, fearfully, that her beau had told her to make a list of their favorite New York restaurants before the bad market forced a move to the Midwest.**

Quote from a person involved: "Next time you are stressing over some finance guy, remember that he is just a math-club nerd," one woman wrote after recounting a breakup. "This recession just bought everyone an extra two years of the single life."

(OBJECTIVITY: looking at the opposite side; fairness) Another, though, seemed chagrined, after her boyfriend told her to "grow up" and stop "complaining about vacations and dinner" since he had to "fire 20 people by the end of the week."

.... (some of the article omitted here for sake of space & sanity)....

Conclusion, with closing quote: Despite the seemingly endless stream of disparaging remarks and shaking heads, some of the appeal of dating a banker remains. "It's not even about a \$200 dinner," Ms. Petrus said. "It's that he's an alpha male, he's aggressive, he's a go-getter, he doesn't take no for an answer, he's confident, people respect him and that creates the whole mystique of who he is."



Done! Now, Happy Day!!