Exegesis Guide: MLA Format

(Based on the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., 2009) and the preferences of the professors of the School of Ministry, Warner University.

**Suggested Physical Resources in Our Library**

**Print Commentary Sets and Series**
- Baker Commentary on the Old Testament
- Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible
- Cambridge Bible Commentary
- The Daily Study Bible (Craigie and Barclay)
- Eerdmans Critical Commentary
- Expositor’s Bible Commentary (EBC)
- International Critical Commentary
- Interpretation
- Interpreter’s Bible Commentary (IB)
- New International Commentary on the Old Testament
- New International Commentary on the New Testament
- New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary
- Tyndale Old & New Testament Commentaries
- The Wesleyan Bible Commentary
- Word Biblical Commentary

**Other Print Sources**
- Anchor Bible Dictionary
- Ancient Christian Doctrine
- The Dictionary of Historical Theology
- The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible
- The New International Dictionary of
  - New Testament Theology
- Vine’s Expository Dictionary
- Word Meanings in the New Testament

**Online Sources**
- PLRC Online Databases – *Ministry Matters*, *ProQuest Religious Periodicals, ICL Net, Oxford Reference Online Premium Collection*
- Internet Sources as approved by Professor

**A. QUOTING** (based on the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th Ed.).

1. "If a quotation runs to more than four lines when run into the text, set it off from your text by beginning a new line, indenting one inch (or ten spaces if you are using a typewriter) from the left margin, and typing it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks" (*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., p. 94).
2. “You are guilty of plagiarism if you half-copy the author’s sentences – either by mixing the author’s well chosen phrases without using quotation marks or by plugging your own synonyms into the author’s sentence structure.” (*Rules for Writers* by Diana Hacker, 3rd ed., p. 356).
3. Consider the use of all dates and numbers as direct quotes. Dates are not usually common knowledge and require listing sources.
4. When citing Scripture references use the following format

**In-text citation:** (*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 1:5-10).

**Works Cited Page:**

B. PARENTHETICAL REFERENCING *(MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed., 6.3)*

1. Author’s name used in the sentence – EXAMPLE -- Howard states that the gospel of John is "a witness to truth or the divine reality made known in Jesus Christ" (216).

2. Author’s name not mentioned in the sentence – EXAMPLE -- The Gospel of John "is a witness to truth, or the divine reality made known in Jesus Christ" (Howard 216).

3. Thought taken from author without direct quotation – EXAMPLE -- The truth is, God makes himself known completely in the person of Jesus Christ (Howard 216-217).

C. Examples of How to Cite a Text on the Works Cited Page
*(Based on the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th Ed., 2009) and the preferences of the professors of the School of Ministry, Warner University.*

*Note: Alphabetize (by author’s last name) and double space all citations.

**Commentaries**

*Baker Commentary on the Old Testament*


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample – (Goldingay 94).

*Bazos Theological Commentary on the Bible*


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample – (Work 118).
Cambridge Bible Commentary


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample – (Hunter 25).

The Daily Study Bible samples –


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample – (Barclay 117).

The Eerdmans Critical Commentary


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample – (Barth and Blanke 193).
**Expositor’s Bible Commentary (EBC)**

**A. Author:** Each book of the Bible is covered by a different author.

**Example:** *Romans* by Everett P. Harrison

**B. Expositor’s Bible Commentary (EBC) MLA citation samples** –


**C. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample** –

(Harrison 9).

**D. Expositor’s Bible Commentary on CD**


[Note: for in-text citation:] Enter the author, list the book of the Bible, the section title: “Commentary,” “Introduction,” “Date,” etc. If using verse-by-verse analysis, list the section and include the chapter and verse. **Example:** *Wessel, Mark 3:4*. The CD-ROM does not list the authors and articles do not have page numbers. Refer to the print copy on the shelf in the Reference Collection for this information when you use a direct quote: **Call # BS 491.2 .E96, 12 vols.**

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**The International Critical Commentary**


**B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –**

(Cranfield 753).

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**Interpretation**


**B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –**

(Hays 27).
1. **Interpreter’s Bible Commentary (IB)**

**A. Author:** Each book of the Bible is covered by a different author.

**Example:** The Epistle to the ROMANS

- *Introduction and Exegesis* by John Knox
- *Exposition* by Gerald R. Gragg

Only the *Introduction* and *Exegesis* should be used. The *Exposition* is not to be used in an exegesis paper.

**B. Interpreter’s Bible Commentary (IB) MLA citation samples -**

*Note: Each section’s author is listed separately.*


**C. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample -**

(Knox 355).

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The New International Commentary on the Old Testament


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –
(Hamilton 141).

The New International Commentary on the New Testament


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –
(France 177).
New Interpreter's Bible Commentary


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –
(Sampley 69).

Tyndale Old and New Testament Commentaries


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –
(Bruce 55).


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –
(Kidner 299).
The Wesleyan Bible Commentary sample –


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –

(Dayton 21).

Word Biblical Commentary


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –

(Durham 31).
Other Sources: Biblical Dictionaries and Word Study Books

Note: No page numbers are required in the citation. (See page 160, 5.5.7 of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed., 2009).

**Anchor Bible Dictionary**


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –

(Kysar 918).

**Ancient Christian Doctrine**


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –

(Elowsky 73).
The Dictionary of Historical Theology

B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –
(Yeago 331).

The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible

B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –
(Beare 116).

The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology

B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –
(Ebel 805).
Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –

(Vine 199).

Word Meanings in the New Testament


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –

(Earle 17).


B. In-text Citation – Author and Page Number sample –

(Pidcock-Lester 61).
Other Sources – Internet Sources

World Wide Web Sites


B. In-text Citation – Author sample –

(Robertson).

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