Background Info: The word "bibliography" springs from two Greek terms: biblia and graphos. The first term is plural for "book" or "papyrus" and refers to the Phoenician city of Byblos, which was a leading center for the manufacture and export of papyrus. The second term originally meant "to write books," but, over time, it came to mean "writing about books." At about the turn of the 19th century, the composite word began to be used to describe the referencing of books, authors, publication data, and so on. A Spanish scholar by the name of Nicolás Antonio (1617-1684), who put together the first annotated reference list of Spanish authors, is recognized as the inventor of the modern bibliography, although it was not known by that name during Antonio's time.

Exercise A: According to MLA style, which of the following statements should be documented and which need not be documented? (Circle the sentence numbers of the statements that need documentation.)

1. The Declaration of Independence was issued in 1776.
2. The sediments on the ocean floor are the accumulation of silt carried by rivers to the sea, volcanic dust, coastal sands, and discarded shells of living creatures.
3. Levi Strauss, the inventor of blue jeans, came to the United States from Germany in 1848.
4. Coca-Cola is a popular soft drink all around the world.
5. According to Germaine Greer, the reason few women have achieved greatness is that they have historically internalized their oppression, thereby draining the energy required for creative work.
6. The United States is a substantially less secure society today than it was forty years ago.
7. The Olympic Games are held every four years.
8. The initials GNP stand for the term gross national product.
9. As a society, we should read poetry because it makes us live more fully and deeply.
10. Henry David Thoreau lived at Walden Pond for two years.

Exercise B: Read the following excerpts, taken from Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan. Then evaluate the succeeding passages that exhibit unacceptable use of quotations. Point out problems and write a revision of each. End your quotations with this MLA parenthetical reference: (Pollan 201).

Grain is the closest thing in nature to an industrial commodity: storable, portable, fungible, ever the same today as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow. Since it can be accumulated and traded, grain is a form of wealth. It is a weapon, too, as Earl Butz once had the bad taste to mention in public; the nations with the biggest surpluses of grain have always exerted power over the ones in short supply. Throughout history governments have encouraged their farmers to grow more than enough grain, to protect against famine, to free up labor for other purposes, to improve the trade balance, and generally to augment their own power. George Naylor is not far off when he says the real beneficiary of his crop is not America's eaters but its military-industrial complex.

Unacceptable Uses of Quotations:

A. In terms of food resources, grain serves a variety of purposes. "Since it can be accumulated and traded, grain is a form of wealth" (Pollan 201).

Revision:

B. According to Pollan, grain is "storable and portable as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow" (Pollan 201).

Revision:
C. New developments have successfully given rise to a theory "the real beneficiary of his crop is not America's eaters but its military-industrial complex" (Siwolop 111).

Revision:

D. In the past, we have slowly distanced ourselves from grain as a crop. However, "grain is the closest thing in nature to an industrial commodity" (Pollan 201), which suggests that we as a people should reevaluate its importance and value.

Revision:

E. One of the problems with grain as a crop is that "It is a weapon" (Pollan 201).

Revision:

Exercise C: Read a passage from one of your textbooks. Then write three or four sentences paraphrasing the passage. Using MLA style, include quotes within your paraphrase. Conclude the exercise by putting together an MLA Work Cited entry for the text.

Paraphrase with quotes:

Work Cited entry: