

MLA Style Citations

This guide is a brief introduction to some of the most common types of citations using MLA style. The rules of citing materials using MLA style are developed by the Modern Language Association (MLA). For specific examples not included in this guide, please consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition, 2009. Copies of the *MLA Handbook* are available in the reference stacks and at the reference office at the ELAC and SGEC Libraries. The call number for the *MLA Handbook* is LB2369 .G53 2009.

Citing Sources in the Text

You must indicate to your readers not only what sources you used in writing your paper, but also where in the work you found the material. You give this information by inserting an in-text citation (also known as a parenthetical citation) in your paper wherever you incorporate someone else's words, facts, or ideas. Usually, all you need is the author's last name and a page number.

The proliferation of home VCRs meant that "by the mid-1980s features shot directly on video were the standards" (Nash 52).

Gary Nash, a researcher with the Media Foundation, stated that "by the mid-1980s features shot directly on video were the standards" (52).

Works Cited List (for *Print Sources*)

Each source that you cited in the text of your paper (like in the example above) must also appear in your works cited list at the end of your paper. The works cited page should have 1" margins all around. Center the title, Works Cited, at the top of the page. Double-space between the title and the first entry. Begin your citations flush with the left margin. If the entry runs more than one line, the subsequent lines should be indented one-half inch from the left margin (this is called a hanging indent). Double-space between entries. Alphabetize all entries by author's last name, and if there is no author listed for a particular entry, then by the title of the work.

Citing a Book

Author's Last Name, First Name. *The Title of the Book, Italicized*. City of Publication: Name of Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication (Print).

Nash, Gary. *History on Trial: Culture Wars and the Teaching of the Past*.
New York: Knopf, 1997. Print.

Citing a Work in an Anthology (this includes materials taken from *Taking Sides or Opposing Viewpoints* books)

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of the Work Being Cited, In Quotation Marks." *Title of the Anthology, Italicized*. Editor/s of the Anthology. City of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication [of the anthology]. Page numbers of the cited piece. Print.

Brown, Lester R. "Eradicating Hunger: A Growing Challenge." *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Global Issues*. Eds. James E. Harf and Mark Owen Lombardi. Guilford: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2005. 128-34. Print.

Citing an Article in a Well-Known Reference Book

Author's Last Name, First Name. [If the article is unsigned, give the title first.] "Title of the Article, in Quotation Marks." [if you're citing a specific definition among several in a dictionary, give the appropriate designation]. *Title of the Reference Work, Italicized*. Edition. Date of Publication. Print.

"Culture." Def. 2a. *Oxford English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. 1989. Print.

Citing an Article in a Specialized Reference Book

Author's Last Name, First Name. [if the article is unsigned, give the title first] "Title of the Article, In Quotation Marks." *Title of the Reference Work, Italicized*. Editor/s of the Reference Work. Edition. City of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.

Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. Ed. Warren T. Reich. 3rd ed. Vol. 4. New York: Macmillan-Thomson, 2004. Print.

Citing a Government Publication

Government Name. Government Agency. *Title of Publication, Italicized*. City of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Medium of Publication.

New York State. Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century. *The Adirondacks Park in the Twenty-First Century*. Albany: State of New York, 1990. Print.

Citing a Scholarly Journal Article

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of the Article, In Quotation Marks." *Title of the Periodical, Italicized* Volume Number.Issue Number [if there is one] (Publication Date): Page Numbers. Medium of publication (Print).

Albada, Kelly F. "The Public and Private Dialogue about the American Family on Television." *Journal of Communication* 50.4 (2000): 79-110. Print.

Citing a Newspaper Article

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of the Article, in Quotation Marks." *Title of the Newspaper, Italicized* Day Month (abbreviated) Year of Publication, Edition (if given): Page Numbers or First Page+. Print.

Harris, Nicole. "Airports in the Throes of Change." *Wall Street Journal* 27 Mar. 2002: B1+. Print.

Citing a Magazine Article

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article, In Quotation Marks." *Title of Magazine, Italicized* Day Month Year of Publication: Page Numbers. [Do NOT give the volume and issue numbers even if they are listed.] Print.

Weintraub, Arlene, and Laura Cohen. "A Thousand-Year Plan for Nuclear Waste." *Business Week* 6 May 2002: 94-96. Print.

Citing a Film or Video Recording

Title of the Film, Italicized. Director's Name. Names of Key Performers. The Film Distributor, Year of Release. Medium Consulted.

It's a Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946. Film.

Works Cited List (for *Online Sources*)

Citing an eBook from NetLibrary

Author's Last Name, First Name. *The Title of the Book, Italicized*. City of Publication: Name of Publisher, Year of Publication. Service Provider, Italicized. Medium of Publication (Web). Date of Access.

Bloom, Harold. *Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Bloom's Notes*.
Broomall: Chelsea, 1996. NetLibrary. Web. 15 Oct. 2008.

Citing a Scholarly Journal Article Accessed on an Electronic Database

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of the Article, In Quotation Marks." *Title of the Periodical, Italicized* Volume Number.Issue Number [if there is one] (Publication Date): Page Numbers. *Title of the Database, Italicized*. Web. Date of Access.

Sonwai, S., and M. R. Mackley. "The Effect of Shear on the Crystallization of Cocoa Butter." *JAOCS, Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society* 83.7 (2006): 583-596. *ProQuest*. Web. 5 Jan. 2007.

Citing a Newspaper Article Accessed on an Electronic Database

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of the Article, in Quotation Marks." *Title of the Newspaper, Italicized* Day Month Year of Publication, Edition (if given): Page Numbers or First Page+. *Title of the Database, Italicized*. Web. Date of Access.

Duane, Daniel. "Going to the Snow." *Los Angeles Times* 25 Dec. 2006, Home ed.: A31. *ProQuest*. Web. 5 Jan. 2007.

Citing a Magazine Article Accessed on an Electronic Database

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article, In Quotation Marks." *Title of Magazine, Italicized* Day Month Year of Publication: Page Numbers. [Do NOT give the volume and issue numbers even if they are listed.] *Title of Database, Italicized*. Web. Date of Access.

Pepper, Leslie. "Can Eating Chocolate Clear Your Skin?" *Harper's Bazaar* 1
Sep. 2006: 348. *ProQuest*. Web. 5 Jan. 2007.

Citing an Article from *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center* or *Literature Resource Center*

Articles in the *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center* or the *Literature Resource Center* databases may have originally come from other sources. If this is the case with your document, when citing materials from these databases, include two works in the entry: the original source and the article in the database that you consulted. If the database article is an excerpt, join the two works in the entry with "Excerpted in" or "Excerpt of."

O'Connor, Sandra Day, Anthony Kennedy, and David Souter. "A 24-Hour Waiting
Period Is Not an Undue Burden." Excerpt of *Planned Parenthood of
Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Robert P. Casey*. No. 91-744. Supreme Ct.
of the US. 29 June 1992. Print. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*.
Web. 5 Jan. 2007.

Citing a Personal, Professional, or Scholarly Web Site

Last Name, First Name of Author (if given). "Title of the Article or Document, in Quotation Marks." *Title of the overall Web site, Italicized*. Publisher or Sponsor of the Site, if not given, type n.p.), Date of publication (day, month, and year, as available. If not given, type n.d.). Web. Day Month Year of Access.

"Chicano Murals in Tucson." *Southern Arizona Folk Arts*. University of
Arizona, n.d. Web. 5 Jan. 2007.

Hints on Creating MLA Style “Works Cited” Pages Using Microsoft Word 2007:

- Use a hanging-indent for entries:

To do this, on the Page Layout tab, click the Paragraph Dialog Box Launcher, and then click the Indents and Spacing tab. In the Special list under Indentation, click Hanging from the drop-down menu. Click OK

- Double-space all entries:

To do this, on the Page Layout tab, click the Paragraph Dialog Box Launcher, and then click the Indents and Spacing tab

Under Line spacing, choose Double from the drop-down menu
Click OK

- Do not underline URLs (deselect hyperlink):

To do this, in the upper left-hand corner click the Microsoft Office Button , and then click on Word Options located at the bottom

On the left-side menu, click Proofing

Click the AutoCorrect Options

Under the AutoFormat As You Type tab, remove the Internet and network paths with hyperlinks check box.

Click OK

Or, simply highlight the URL and right-click with mouse and select Remove Hyperlink

- Close citations with a period

- If the item you’re citing doesn’t have all the components for a complete citation (for example if an article doesn’t have the name of its author), then skip that component, but always try to include as much of the necessary information as possible

- Proofread and be consistent

- Abbreviate all months with the first three letters followed by a period, with the exception of May, June, or July

Sources where you can find more detailed help on using MLA Style formatting for your papers:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

Location: REF LB2369 .G53 2009

“The OWL at Purdue”

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the sections you’d like to see.

URL: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

“Diana Hacker: Research and Documentation Online”

When you go to this web site, look to the top left of the screen. You’ll see some great links for MLA style citations, works cited lists, and even sample research papers in the MLA format.

URL: http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_o.html

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East Los Angeles College Library