

LRC

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTERS

interact & learn

MLA: MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION General Guide

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FORMAT & STYLE

WHAT IS MLA?

○ **MLA – Modern Language Association**

- The most common used format for writing in English and the Humanities



WHAT DOES MLA MANAGE?

○ **MLA manages:**

- Document format
- In-text citations (also called parenthetically)
- Works Cited
 - A list of all sources used in the paper



MLA UPDATE 2009

- **2009 changes in MLA:**
 - **No more underlining**
 - Only use italics
 - **New abbreviations**
 - N.p. for “no publisher given”



GENERAL FORMAT

Your paper should:

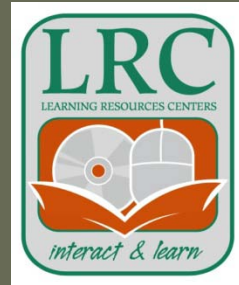
- Be typed, double-spaced
- On standard-sized paper (8.5"x11")
- With 1" margins on all sides
- In 10-12 pt. Calibri, Times New Roman, or a similar font
- Only one space after punctuation
- Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch
- Header with page numbers in the upper right corner
- Use italics for titles of longer works



FORMATTING THE 1ST PAGE

- No title page
- **Double space everything**
- In the upper left corner on the 1st page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and date
- Center the paper title
 - Use standard caps but no underlining, italics, quotes, or bold
- Create a header in the upper right corner at half inch from the top and one inch from the right of the page
 - Include your last name and page number





EXAMPLES OF SAMPLE MLA CITATIONS

CITING BOOKS

○ References to an entire book should include the following elements:

- Author(s) or editor(s)
- The complete title
- Edition, if indicated
- Place of publication
- The shortened name of the publisher
- Date of publication
- Type of publication



EXAMPLES

○ **Book**

- Hughes, Langston. *The Ways of White Folks*. New York: Vintage Book, 1990. Print.

○ **Another work by same author**

- ---. *Short Stories*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1996. Print.

○ **Book (Two authors)**

- Hunt, Bill, and Todd Doogan. *The Digital Bits: Insider's Guide to DVD*. New York, McGraw-Hill 2003. Print.



EXAMPLES CONT'D

○ **Book (Three authors)**

- Lowi, Theodore, Benjamin Ginsberg, and Steve

Jackson. *Analyzing American Government: American Government, Freedom and Power*. 3rd ed. New York: Norton, 1994. Print.

○ **Book (More than three authors)**

- Alden, Peter C., et al. *National Audubon Society*

Field Guide to African Wildlife. New York: Chanticleer Press, Inc., 1995. Print.



CITING AN ESSAY, CHAPTER, OR ANTHOLOGY

- **References to an essay or chapter in an edited book or compilation must include the following elements:**
 - Essay or chapter author(s)
 - Essay or chapter title
 - Book title
 - Book editor(s) or compilers
 - Place of publication
 - The shortened name of the publisher
 - Date of publication
 - Inclusive page numbers of the cited piece
 - Type of publication



EXAMPLES

○ Article in a Book

- Brown, Lee P. “The Benefits of Drug Legalization Are Mths.” *At Issue: Legalizing Drugs*. Ed. Bruno Leone. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 1996. 116-120. Print.

○ Reprinted Article

- Thwaite, Anthony. “Out of the Quarrel: On Sylvia Plath.” *Encounter* 103.2 (1979): 40-44. Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Dedria Bryfonski. Vol. 14. Detroit: Gale, 1980. 426. Print.



CITING ARTICLES FROM REFERENCE BOOKS

- If the article or entry is signed, place the author's name first; if it is unsigned, give the title first
- For well-known reference works, it is not necessary to include full publication information
- Include only the title of the reference source, edition, and date of publication



EXAMPLES

○ Dictionary Entry

- “Scorpion.” Def. *DK Illustrated Oxford Dictionary*. The Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus, American Edition. 1998. Print.

○ Encyclopedia Article

- Rock, Irvin. “Illusion.” *Encyclopedia Americana*. 1998. Print.

○ Article from a Less Familiar Reference Work

- Artigas, Mariano. “Galileo, Science, and Religion.” *Science, Religion, and Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture, and Controversy*. Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 2007. Print.



ARTICLE IN JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS

- **References to periodical articles must include the following elements:**
 - Author(s)
 - Article title
 - Publication title
 - Volume number
 - Publication date (abbreviate months)
 - The inclusive page numbers
 - Type of publication



EXAMPLES

- **Journal Article, One Author**

- Kittisupamongkol, Weekitt. “Low-Molecular-Weight Heparin in Pregnancy.”

American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology 201.3 (2009): 12. Print.

- **Journal article, two authors:**

- Lazaros, Edward J., and Thomas H. Spotts. “Using Computer Graphic

Representations to Promote Learning in Elementary Science Courses.”

Science Activities 46.2 (2009): 11-14. Print.

- **Magazine article:**

- Holloway, Monica. “Cowboy and Wills: An Autistic Boy’s Greatest Love-and

Loss.” *Psychology Today* Sept.-Oct. 2009. Print.

- **Newspaper article, no author:**

- “FED: Private Health Could Bring Back Parly.” *AAP Austrilian National*

News Wire 13 September 2009, English ed. Print.



CITING ELECTRONIC DATABASES

- **Here are some common features you should try and find before citing electronic sources in MLA style. Always include as much information as is available:**
 - Author and/or editor names
 - Name of the database, or title of project, book, article
 - Any version numbers available
 - Date of version, revision, or posting
 - Publisher information
 - Date you accessed the material



EXAMPLES

○ Academic Search Premier

- Schug, Charles. "The Romantic Form of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein." *Studies in English Literature (Rice)* 7.4 (1977): 607. *Academic Search Premier*. EBSCO. Web. 17 Mar. 2011.

○ Literary Reference Center

- Wagenknecht, David, and Harold Bloom. "Transformations." *Bloom's Modern Critical Views: William Blake; Bloom's Modern Critical Views* (1985): 171-79. *Literary Reference Center*. Gale. Web. 28 Jan. 2011.



CITING ONLINE SOURCES

- Citations should provide information that both identifies a source and allows that source to be located and retrieved again
 - All citations should include the type of publication (Web) and the date the content was accessed
 - Use **n. pag.** if page numbers are unavailable and **N.p.** if publisher or sponsor of the site are unavailable
 - **OPTIONAL:** List the complete address within **angle brackets** < > after the date



EXAMPLES

- **Web Site**
 - Cornell University Library. "Introduction to Research." *Cornell University Library*. Cornell University, 2009. Web. 19 June 2009 <<http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/intro>>.
- **Entry in an Online Encyclopedia:**
 - "Einstein, Albert." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, 1999. Web. 27 Apr. 2009.
- **Article from a Less Familiar Online Reference Book:**
 - Nielsen, Jorgen S. "European Culture and Islam." *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*. Ed. Richard C. Martin. New York: Macmillan Reference-Thomson/Gale, 2004. Web. 4 July 2009.
- **Article in an Online Periodical:**
 - Chaplin, Heather. "Epidemic of Extravagance." *Salon* 19 February 1999: n. pag. Web. 12 July 1999.



FORMATTING QUOTATIONS

- Use the **block quotation** format for quotations more than four lines long:
 - Use a colon to introduce the quotation
 - Indent the quotation one inch from the left margin
 - Double-space the quotation
 - Do **not** use quotation marks
 - Place the parenthetical citation (author and page number) **after** the period





In-Text
(Parenthetically)
Citations
The Basics

THE BASICS FOR IN-TEXT CITATIONS

○ Author's name in text

- Dover has expressed this concern (118-21).

○ Author's name in reference

- This concern has been expressed (Dover 118-21).

○ Multiple authors of a work

- This hypothesis (Bradley and Rogers 7) suggested this theory (Sumner, Reichl, and Waugh 23).



IN-TEXT CITATIONS CONT'D

- **Two works cited**
 - (Burns 54; Thomas 327)
- **Multivolume works References to volumes and pages**
 - (Wilson 2:1-18)
- **Two locations**
 - Williams alludes to this premise (136-39, 145).



IN-TEXT CITATIONS CONT'D

○ **Corporate authors**

- (United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa 51-63)

○ **Works with no author**

- When a work has no author, use the work's title or a shortened version of the title when citing it in text

○ **Online source with numbered paragraphs**

- (Fox, pars. 4-5)



Type of Citation	Example
Author's name in text	Magny develops this argument (67-69).
Author's name in reference	This argument has been developed elsewhere (Magny 67-69).
Quotation found in indirect or secondhand source	The philosopher Alain states that "admiration is not pleasure but a kind of attention. . ." (qtd. in Magny 66).
Material found in indirect source	Alain's words seem to dissociate admiration from pleasure (in Magny 66).
Two authors' names in reference	The most notorious foreign lobby in Washington is the "Sugar Mafia" (Howe and Trott 134).



Type of Citation	Example
Reference to volume and page in multivolume work	As a painter Andrea was "faultless" (Freedberg 1: 98).
Reference to whole volume	In his second volume, Freedberg gives an account of Andrea's whole painting career.
Two works by same author on list of works cited	Frye connects Burgess' <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> to romance tradition (<i>Secular Scripture</i> 110).
Two locations in same source	Dabundo deals with this problem (22, 31).
Two sources cited	This controversy has been addressed more than once (Dabundo 27; Magny 69).



Type of Citation	Example
Personal interview; name given in text	Parsons talked about the need for physical education teachers to understand the relationship between physical activity and fitness.
Corporate author	Many different types of organizations in the United States are involved in mediation and dispute resolution (Natl. Inst. for Dispute Resolution).
Electronic source that uses paragraph numbers	The semiconductor workplace is highly toxic (Ross, par. 35).
Electronic source that uses chapter and section numbers	"Once we start using a tool extensively, it also starts using us" (Rawlins, ch. 1, sec. 1).



NEED MORE HELP

- **MLA Format Guide from LRC**
 - http://www2.piedmontcc.edu/lrc/Resources/Citing_MLA_Style.htm
- **Sample MLA Paper from Arthur C. Banks Library at Capitol Community College**
 - <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/library/mla.pdf>
- **Modern Language Association (MLA)**
 - <http://www.mla.org/style>
- **CheckCite: James Madison University Libraries**
 - <http://www.lib.jmu.edu/help/checkcite>



REFERENCES

- Citation Management
 - <http://www.library.cornell.edu/>
- MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers – 7th Edition
- What is MLA Style?
 - <http://www.mla.org/style>

