

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA)

This handout is adapted from the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (Summer 2009). If you are unsure which edition to use, please check with your professor.

When using MLA documentation, you must prepare an alphabetical list (including appropriate bibliographical information) of all the sources cited in your paper. In MLA, this list is labeled Works Cited (NOT Bibliography, NOT References, and NOT Endnotes).

Sources in your Works Cited should be listed alphabetically by author's last name. If the author of a source is unknown, alphabetize the source by the first major word of the title (ignore "A," "An," and "The"). The Works Cited should be doubled spaced with hanging indentation and the last page of your paper following the consecutive numbering of the previous pages. Caution: this handout has single spaced examples.

MLA uses shortened forms of the publisher's name. Omit articles, business abbreviations (Co., Corp., Inc., Ltd.) and descriptive words (*Books, House, Press, Publishers,*). You must include *Press* if it is a university press, but you can shorten it to *UP* (Ohio State UP).

Starting in 2009, you need to add the publication medium (Print, Web, DVD) to all entries. Also, MLA does not accept underlining of independently published works. Use italics instead.

WORK CITED EXAMPLES FOR PRINTED SOURCES

Most non-periodical entries use the following format:

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. *Title of the Work*. Location of the publisher:

Publisher, Year. Publication medium.

BOOKS WITH SINGLE AUTHOR

Winterowd, W. Ross. *Contemporary Rhetoric: A Conceptual Background*. New York: Harcourt, 1992. Print.

SECOND BOOK BY THE SAME AUTHOR

---. *Rhetorical Theory and Practice*. New York: Oxford UP, 1990. Print.

BOOKS WITH TWO OR MORE AUTHORS

Witte, Stephen P. and Lester Faigley. *Evaluating College Writing Programs*. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois UP, 1983. Print.

an editor example

SELECTION IN AN ANTHOLOGY

Donne, John. "The Good-Morrow." *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces*. 6th ed. Ed. Maynard Mack. New York: Norton, 1992. 2112-13. Print.

ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE WORK

“Traquair, Sir John Stewart.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 11th ed. 1991. Print.

Most scholarly periodical entries use the following format:

Last, First. “Title of Article.” *Title of Periodical* Volume number.Issue number. (Date of publication): Inclusive pages. Publication medium.

ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

Norris, Margot. “Narration under a Blindfold: Reading Joyce’s ‘Clay.’” *English Journal* 102.3 (1987): 206-15. Print.

ARTICLE IN A MAGAZINE (CONSECUTIVE PAGE NUMBERS)

Van Biema, David. “Parodies Regained.” *Time* 21 Mar. 1994: 46-8. Print.

ARTICLE IN A MAGAZINE (NO CONSECUTIVE PAGE NUMBERS)

Kaminer, Wendy. “The Las Taboo.” *New Republic* 14 Oct. 1996: 24+. Print.

INTERVIEW

Updike, John. Interview by Scott Simon. *Weekend Edition*. Natl. Public Radio. WBUR, Boston. 2 Apr. 1994. Radio.

INTERVIEW (CONDUCTED BY YOU)

Lee, Melissa. Telephone interview. 27 July 1996.

Marx, Isabelle. Personal interview. 22 Dec. 1993.

WORK CITED EXAMPLES FOR ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Starting in 2009, MLA does not require URLs but does requires publisher’s name, a date of publication, and page numbers. If the publisher is unknown, use “n.p.” for no publisher given. Use “n.d.” for unknown date. For journals that appear *only* online or in databases that do not provide page numbers use “n. pag” for no pagination. At the end of the citation, you need to include the date you accessed the information.

WORKS CITED ON THE WEB WITH PRINT PUBLICATION DATA

Most works available in print and online use the following format:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of the Work*. Location of publication: Publisher, Year. *Title of the Database or website*. Medium of publication consulted. Date of access.

ON-LINE BOOK

Abbott, Jacob. *Rollo in Paris*. Boston: DeWolfe, 1858. *Google Books*. Web. 12 Mar. 2009.

ON-LINE JOURNAL ARTICLE IN A DATABASE

Irvine, Lorna. "Murder and Mayhem: Margaret Atwood Deconstructs." *Contemporary Literature* 29.2 (1988): 265-76. *JSTOR*. Web. 22 Jun. 2009.

ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE DATABASE

"Rococo Style." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 2007. *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Web. 19 Mar. 2009.

WORKS CITED ONLY ON THE WEB

Most works available only on the web use the following format:

Author Last Name, Author First Name. *Title of the Work* or "Title of the Article." *Title of the Website* (if different from title of the work). Version or edition used. Publisher or sponsor of the site, date of publication. Publication medium. Access date.

"Vincentian Values." *Seton Medical Center Foundation*. Seton Medical Center, 2009. Web. 20 Jul. 2009.

GOVERNMENT WEBSITE

United States. Dept. of Education. About. *ED.gov*. Dept. of Education, n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2009.

(Note: If the title is unknown, use the genre label: About, Introduction, Homepage, etc. See the example above.)

BLOG POSTING

Johnson, Denise. "Frog and Toad Leap Off the Page Again." *The Joy of Children's Literature*. Blogger, 9 Jun 2009. Web. 12 Jun. 2009.

VIDEO CLIP ONLINE

Most films and video clips online use the following format:

"Title of Episode." *Title of the Program or Series*. Pertinent information (director, performer, narrator). Name of the network. Call letters and city of the local station. Broadcast date. *Title of Database or Website*. Publication medium. Access date.

"Lesson 1 – Preferences – English Grammar." *You Tube*. Posted by JenniferESL. 25 July 2007. Web. 10 Feb. 2009.

-PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS-

When quoting and/or paraphrasing another person's work, you must give that person credit; **failure to cite is plagiarism**. In MLA, the information included in the parentheses following the quotations or paraphrases always includes the page number of the cited material; you may also need to include the author's last name or an abbreviated version of the title.

1. Include page number and author if you have not named the author in the text.

“The six Outward Bound schools in the United States enroll close to 6,000 students a year” (Wilson 222).

The name, *Wilson*, is necessary in the parentheses because there's no other way that the reader can tell who is being quoted.

2. Include an abbreviated title and page number if you have more than one work from the same author or if the author is unknown.

“And Connie paid close attention to herself, bathed in a glow of slow-pulsed joy that seemed to rise mysteriously” (“Where Are You Going” 52-3).

In this case, several works by Joyce Carol Oates have been listed in the Works Cited so the author must clarify which of Oates' works he/she is quoting from here.

3. Include the page number alone if the author/title is obvious, given the text of your paper, or if the previous quotation is from the exact same source.

Critic Hazel Effinger notes that Connie's preoccupation with Arnold Friend is comparable to the American teenagers' fascination with James Dean and other teen idols of the 1950s (395).

Since this is clearly Effinger's idea, only the page number is necessary. In the case of paraphrases such as this, place the parenthetical citation at the end of the last sentence of the paraphrasing and do not add quotation marks.

4. if a quotation is more than four typed lines, block indent one inch (or ten spaces); use double-spacing and do not add quotation marks. Please note that the punctuation for the parenthetical citation also changes.

Fast-food has not contributed as much to the landfill problem as previously believed:

Of the 14 tons of garbage from nine municipal landfills that the Garbage Project has excavated and sorted in the past five years, there was less than a hundred pounds of fast-food packaging--that is, containers or wrappers for hamburgers, pizzas, chicken, fish and convenience-store sandwiches, as well as the accessories most of us deplore, such as cups, lids, straws, sauce containers, and so on. (Rathje 270)

Electronic Parenthetical Citations

Each parenthetical reference must point to a specific entry in the list of Works Cited. To do this when dealing with electronic sources, you should

- 1) use a signal phrase or
- 2) use a parenthetical citation.

You are required to cite with as much specificity as possible, so if the electronic source has internal divisions, you need to note this. In addition, under the Print Preview option, it is possible to find the page and paragraph numbers. In the event that this is not possible, use the following examples:

#1: Document Electronic Source by Using a Signal Phrase

If the electronic source does not have page numbers or internal divisions, all you need is a signal phrase specifying the author (or if an author is not designated, then use the title).

Example: According to Steven E. Landsburg, “if you know you’re going to treasure something, you don’t hesitate to buy it.”

If the source contains internal divisions, you must note this.

Example: As Steven E. Landsburg notes in his Introduction, “if you know you’re going to treasure something, you don’t hesitate to buy it.”

#2: Document Source by Using Parenthetical Citations

If the electronic source does not have page numbers or internal divisions, list the author’s name in the parentheses (or if an author is not designated, then use the title of the work)

Example: “If you know you’re going to treasure something, you don’t hesitate to buy it” (Landsburg).

If the source contains internal divisions, you must note this

Example: “If you know you’re going to treasure something, you don’t hesitate to buy it (Landsburg “Introduction”).

For more detailed information on M.L.A., consult the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Copies are available for use in the Writing Center. Updates to the 7th edition will be posted at

For more assistance with MLA Style, or with any stage of the writing process,
visit The Writing Center or call us to make an appointment.

