

MLA Citation Style



This handout provides a summary of rules established by the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for documenting the original source of an idea or quotation. There are two steps in MLA documentation: (1) provide a brief citation to the original source in the text of your paper and (2) make a full citation on the Works Cited page at the end of your paper. For the most authoritative and complete set of rules for MLA style, see the *MLA Handbook*, Chapters 5-6.

Documenting Sources in the Text

Use parenthetical references in the text of your paper to show the original source of an idea or quotation. A parenthetical reference has brief information, usually the author's last name and the page numbers of the section you are quoting or paraphrasing – just enough to help a reader find the source in the works cited list at the end of your paper. You have the option to include some information, such as the author's last name, in the text itself, or you can put everything in a parenthetical reference. The parenthetical reference should be placed where a pause would naturally occur, such as at the end of a sentence.

| | |
|--|--|
| One author in text | Marcuse made this claim (148-49). |
| One author in reference | This claim has been made (Marcuse 148-49). |
| Two or three authors in text | Hunt and Wilkins dispute this point (45-47). Hunt, Mao, and Wilkins dispute this point (45-47). |
| Two or three authors in reference | This point is disputed (Hunt and Wilkins 45-47). This point is disputed (Hunt, Mao, and Wilkins 45-47). |
| Four or more authors in text | Baxter and her co-authors...this proposal (203-05) |
| Four or more authors in reference | ...made this proposal (Baxter, et al. 203-05). |
| Multivolume works in text | In volume 2, Williams notes... (30-34). |
| Multivolume works in reference | (Williams 2: 30-34). (Schlesinger, vol. 4). |
| Work with no author | (<i>Primary Colors</i> 56). ("A New Strategy for Fighting AIDS" A22). |
| Work by a Corporate Author | (National Research Council 15). |
| Two works by same author | (Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlett Letter</i> 15-20). (Hawthorne, <i>The Blithedale Romance</i> 40-42). |

The Works Cited Page

The Works Cited page at the end of your paper provides a complete citation to every source used in the text. Start with a new page. One-half inch from the top of the page, continue the page number from the text. Use double-spacing for the entire page. Center the title, *Works Cited*, one inch from the top of the page. Begin your list of works cited on the next line. Arrange the cited works in alphabetical order by author. For works that have no author, use the title. Start the first line of each citation flush with the left margin. Indent subsequent lines of each citation one-half inch from the margin (hanging indent).

Books

Author(s) or editor(s). *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, date of publication. Format.

Book with No Author

Primary Colors: A Novel of Politics. New York: Random House, 1996. Print.

Book with One Author/Editor

Barth, Roland S. *Learning by Heart*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001. Print.

Kelin, Kathleen Gregory, ed. *Great Women Mystery Writers*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1994. Print.

Book with Two or Three Authors/Editors

Killam, Douglas and Ruth Rowe, eds. *The Companion to African Literatures*. Bloomington: Indiana U Press, 2000. Print.

Landre, Rick, Mike Miller, and Dee Porter. *Gangs: A Handbook for Community Awareness*. New York: Facts on File, 1997. Print.

Book with Four or More Authors/Editors

Geotting, Denise, et al. *Newberry and Caldecott Awards: A Subject Index*. Worthington: Linworth, 2003. Print.

Editions and Multivolume Works

Baym, Nina, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 6th ed. 5 vols. New York: Norton, 2003. Print.

Article in a Reference Book

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

"Noon." Def. 4b. *The Oxford English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. 1989. Print.

Translation of Works

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Trans. Robert Fagles. New York: Viking, 1996. Print.

Chapter or Work in an Anthology

Add the author, title, translator (if relevant) and page numbers of the chapter or work. For an essay, story, or poem, use quotation marks for the title. If the work was originally published independently (for example, a novel, autobiography, or play), italicize the title.

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. *A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America*. Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88. Print.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. *Plays for the Theatre: An Anthology of World Drama*. Ed. Oscar G. Brockett and Lenyth Brockett. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1979. 522-581. Print.

Terkel, Studs. "Stephen Cruz." *Rereading America*. Ed. Gary Colombo, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle. 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004. 348-353. Print.

Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers

Journal Article

Use the author, article title (quotes), journal title (italicized), series number, volume, issue number, year, page numbers, and format.

Davis, Cynthia J. "Margaret Fuller, Body and Soul." *American Literature* 71 (1999): 31-56. Print.

DiMatteo, Anthony. "The Use and Abuse of Shakespeare." *College Literature* 31.2 (2005): 185-195. Print.

Magazine Article

Alter, Jonathan. "Truth: The Best Propaganda." *Newsweek* 4 Mar. 2002: 29. Print.

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

Newspaper Article

"Designs on Fuel Savings." *Washington Times* 8 Oct. 2005: B1+. Print.

Electronic Journal, Magazine, or Newspaper

Start with the rules for books, journals, magazines, and newspapers (see above). Then add the database name (italicized), medium of publication (Web), and date of access (day, month, and year).

Accessed through Library Databases

Alter, Jonathan. "Truth: The Best Propaganda." *Newsweek* 4 Mar. 2002: 29. *LexisNexis Academic*. Web. 23 May 2005.

"Country Review: Mexico." *CountryWatch*. 2005. *CountryWatch*. Web. 23 May 2005.

- Davis, Cynthia J. "Margaret Fuller, Body and Soul." *American Literature* 71 (1999): 31-56. *Omnifile*. Web. 23 May 2002.
- "Designs on Fuel Savings." *Washington Times* 8 Oct. 2005: B1. *InfoTrac Custom Newspapers*. Web. 23 May 2005.
- DiMatteo, Anthony. "The Use and Abuse of Shakespeare." *College Literature* 31.2 (2005): 185-195. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 23 May 2005.
- Feder, Barnaby J. "For Job Seekers, a Toll-Free Gift of Expert Advice." *New York Times* 30 Dec. 1993, late ed.: C1+. *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*. Web. 23 May 2005.

Web Sites

Use the author(s)/compiler/editor/narrator/performer/translator, title of the work, Web site title (italicized), version or edition, publisher/sponsor (use *N.p.* if not available), date of publication (use *n.d.* if unavailable), medium of publication (Web) and date of access. The URL is optional. It may be included when the instructor requires it or when the website cannot be easily located without it. The URL should follow the date of access and be enclosed in angle brackets.

Accessed through the Web without URL

- Appenzeller, Tim. "Art: Evolution or Revolution?" *Science* 20 Nov. 1998: 1451. *Science Magazine*. 2005. American Association for the Advancement of Science. Web. 23 May 2005.
- Chivers, C. J. "Georgian Police Break Up Protests." *The New York Times*. New York Times, 8 Nov. 2007. Web. 9 Nov. 2007.
- "Dante Alighieri." *Poets.org*. 2007. The Academy of American Poets. Web. 8 Nov. 2007
- Elliott, Janet. "Craddick Opponents Renew Their Fight." *Chron.com* 18 Jun. 2007. Web. 7 Nov. 2007.
- "Ten Dogs That Changed the World." *CNN.com*. 2007. Cable News Network. Web. 7 Nov. 2007

Accessed through the Web with URL included

- Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. *The William Blake Archive*. Lib. of Cong., 28 Sept. 2007. Web. 20 Nov. 2007. <<http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/>>.
- Larson, Kerry. "Emerson's Strange Equality." *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 59 (2004): 315-339. *Caliber*. 2005. U of California. Web. 23 May 2005 <<http://caliber.ucpress.net/doi/pdf/10.1525/ncl.2004.59.3.315>>.
- Stephens, Michael. "A Blogging Journey." *Tame the Web: Libraries, Technology, and People*. N.p. Dec 2007. Web. 5 June 2009. <<http://tametheweb.com/about-michael-stephens/about-ttw-blogging-journey/>>.

Electronic Book

Follow the rules for books. Add the title of the database or internet site, medium of publication (Web) and date of access:

- Adams, Henry. *The Education of Henry Adams*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1918. *Bartleby.com; Great Books Online*. 1999. Web 23 May 2005.
- Child, L. Maria, ed. *The Freedmen's Book*. Boston, 1866. *Google Book Search*. Web. 15 May 2008.
- Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994. *NetLibrary*. Web. 23 May 2005.
- Prince, Mary. *The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave*. London: Westley and Daviseckley, 1831. *Digital Schomburg African American Women Writers of the 19th Century*. 1997. *Netlibrary*. Web. 23 May 2005.
- Wessner, Charles W. Ed. *The Small Business Innovation research Program*. National Academy Press: Washington D.C. 1999. Web. 05 June 2009.
- Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*. Brooklyn, 1855. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. Web. 12 Mar. 2007

Multimedia through the Web

- Concerto Palatino, perf. "Canzon a` 6 per l'Epistola." By Giovanni Priuli. *Boston Early Music Festival and Exhibition*. Boston Early Music Festival, 2003. Web. 20 July 2007.
- "Devil Pitches Church." Narr. Jeanne Moos. *CNN.com*. Cable News Network, 4 Dec. 2008. Web. 13 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2008/12/04/moos.devil.pitches.church.cnn?iref=videosearch>>.
- Murrow, Edward R. "Orchestrated Hell." Rec. 3 Dec. 1943. *American Rhetoric*. Web. 13 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/mp3clips/speeches/edwardmurroworchestratedhell.mp3>>.
- Wagner, Richard. "A Faust Overture." *Overtures*. Southwest German Radio Orchestra. Cond. Jascha Horenstein. Vox, 1955. *Music Online: Classical Music Library*. Web. 8 June 2009.