

MLA Style Guide

Information

The Modern Language Association has developed guidelines for documenting sources of research. The complete rules appear in the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#) (call number: LB 2369.G53 shelved in the Reference Section and at the Information Desk). Examples of types of commonly cited works appear below. Please check with your instructor for more specific information.

General Information

- Use a separate page for your works cited list.
- Arrange citations alphabetically by author's last name.
- Double space within all entries. (Citations are shown here single spaced to save space.)
- Use hanging indents. See [MLA Handbook](#), page 118 for instructions.

Standard Arrangement for Citations

- Author's name: last name, first name, middle initial.
 - If there is no author listed, list by the first word of the title other than *the* or *and*.
- Book title: Underline title and subtitle.
- Book chapter: put chapter title in quotation marks (" "). Underline title of book only.
- Encyclopedias: Article title in quotes, encyclopedia title underlined.
- Periodicals: Article title in quotes, periodical title underlined.
- Capitalize the first word of titles and subtitles, any proper nouns, and all principal words.
- Publication information: place of publication (city): publisher and date.

Citing Sources in Text

In MLA documentation style, indicate your sources by typing brief information in parentheses in the text. The following example tells readers the information in the sentence was taken from page 197 of a work by an author named Marcuse. If readers want more information, they can turn to the Works Cited list.

Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras (Marcuse 197).

Works Cited List

The List of works cited appears at the end of your paper and should contain citations for all the works you cite in your text. Details on how to prepare a Works Cited list are found on p. 116 of the [MLA Handbook](#). NOTE: examples here are single-spaced to save space, but MLA requires the works cited page be double-spaced.

Examples of Correct Citations for Books, Book Chapters and Entries in Anthologies:

Book with a single author:

Wilson, Frank R. [The Hand: How Its Use Shapes the Brain, Language and Human Culture](#). New York: Pantheon, 1998.

Individual chapter in a book:

Beard, Michael K. "Gun Control Does Not Violate the Constitution." [Crime and Criminals: Opposing Viewpoints](#). Ed. William Dudley. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 1989.

Article reprinted in an anthology (collection):

Roberts, Sheila. "A Confined World: A Rereading of Pauline Smith." [World Literature Written in English](#). 24(1984): 232-38. Rpt. In [Twentieth Century Literary Criticism](#). Ed. Dennis Poupard. Vol 25. Detroit: Gale, 1988. 399-402.

Examples of Correct Citations for Encyclopedias:

Entry with a named author:

Boone, Lester V. "Farms and Farming." [The World Book Encyclopedia](#). 1998 ed.

Entry without a named author:

"Energy, Department of." [The World Book Encyclopedia](#). 1998 ed.

Examples of Correct Citations for Periodical Articles:

Craner, Paul M. "New Tool for an Ancient Art: The Computer and Music." [Computers and the Humanities](#). 25 (1991): 303-13.

Lohr, Steve. "Now Playing: Babes in Cyberspace." [New York Times](#). 3 Apr 1998, late ed.: C1+.

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Examples of Correct Citations for Films or Video recordings:

A film entry usually begins with the film title (underlined) and includes the director, distributor and year of release. You may also include other information – such as writer, performers, and producer – between the movie title and the distributor.

[It's a Wonderful Life](#). Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946.

Examples of Correct Citations for Interviews:

A personal interview:

Schnatter, John. Telephone interview. 5 May 2003.

A published or recorded interview:

Gordimer, Nadine. Interview. New York Times 10 Oct. 1991, late ed.: C25.

Examples of Correct Citations for Online Sources

When citing electronic sources, some elements may be missing or must be translated into elements that make sense. For example, instead of an author's name there may only be a login name or instead of a title, there may only be a filename. The place of publication and name of publication are replaced online by the protocol and URL address, rather than a date of publication. The date you access the site may be the only way to designate the specific "edition" of an online work. On the Internet a given site is only one page, regardless of length. When in doubt it is better to give too much identifying information about the website than too little. Always print a copy of at least the first page of the material you refer to in your paper in case the site can no longer be located. Web citations always give both the date of the website (if shown) AND the date you accessed it. For additional information, check the MLA Handbook p. 207.

A Web Site:

Mulligan, William H. The Civil War in the Jackson Purchase Region of Kentucky: A Survey of Historic Sites and Structures. 14 Mar. 1998. Murray State University. 3 Apr. 2005 <<http://campus.murraystate.edu/academic/faculty/Bill.Mulligan/PURCH1.html>>.

An article on a Web Site:

Click, Patricia. "History." The Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony. 2001. University of Virginia. 8 Feb. 2006 <<http://www.roanokefreedmenscolony.com/history.html>>.

Scholarly journal article from a Library Subscription Service:

Smith, David J. "Global Health in the Social Studies Classroom." Social Education 69.6 (2005): 307-313. Expanded Academic ASAP. InfoTrac. Jefferson Community College Library, Louisville, KY. 24 Feb. 2006 <<http://web6.infotrac.galegroup.com/>>.

Popular magazine article from a Library Subscription Service:

Hornik, Richard. "One World, Ready or Not." Time 149.12 (1997): 99-111. Expanded Academic ASAP. InfoTrac. Jefferson Community College Library, Louisville, KY. 24 Feb. 2006 <<http://web6.infotrac.galegroup.com/>>.

Article in a Reference Database from a Library Subscription Service:

"Nathaniel Hawthorne" Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia. 2002. GrolierOnline. Jefferson Community College Library, Louisville, KY. 25 Nov. 2002 <<http://go.grolier.com>>.

Online Book

Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. Boston, 1845. 30 Jan 1997 <<http://sunsite3.berkeley.edu/Literature/Douglass/Autobiography/>>.

Posting to a discussion list:

Merriam, Joanne. "Spinoff Monsterpiece Theatre." Online posting. 30 Apr. 1994 Shakespeare: The Global Electronic Shakespeare Conference. 27 Aug. 2000 <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/English/iemls/shak/MONSTERP_SPINOFF.txt>.

WEB RESOURCES FOR CITATION STYLES:

Guidelines on MLA Documentation Style: This is the only site available on the Internet authorized by the Modern Language Association of America. <http://mla.org/main_stl.htm>

The Columbia Guide to Online Style <http://www.Columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx_basic.html>

University of Iowa. Guide to Citation Style Guides <<http://bailiwick.lib.uiowa.edu/journalism/cite.html>>