

Plano High School

Using MLA Format to Cite Sources for Research Papers

MLA format is a standard way of citing parenthetical references in your text and in the list of works at the end of your paper so that readers are able to find your sources. Proper formatting of your sources is required for all research.

A Important to Note

- Always copy the publication information and page numbers from your sources while you are using them.
- You must formulate complete citations for the Works Cited list in order to know how to format your parenthetical references.
- Every parenthetical reference MUST have a corresponding citation in your works cited list at the end of the paper.
- "Works Cited" refers to the list of your sources that are quoted, mentioned, or paraphrased while writing a paper.
- If there is no author, the Title becomes the first piece of information for a citation.
- The formats presented in this style guide are for sources you are most likely to use while doing research for high school papers.
- If you use other materials that require additional style formatting guidance, ask your teacher or librarian for assistance, refer to a published manual, or view the web sites listed.
- The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., 2009 was used to compile this summary guide. There are significant changes in the format since April of 2009 to recognize.

B Formatting Works Cited Page

- **Number Pages:** Works Cited page(s) are the last numbered pages of your paper.
- **Capitalize Heading:** Capitalize and center the heading on the top of the page.
- **Arrange Alphabetically:** Arrange citations in alphabetical order by the first word in each entry; this will be an author's last name or the title.
- **Indent the Second Line:** The second and each subsequent line in each citation are indented five spaces from the left margin.
- **Double-Space:** Double-space the entire list, both between and within entries.
- **Punctuation:** Notice and use all punctuation as indicated.

C MLA Style Works Cited List

BOOKS: The word Print follows each book.

▪ BOOK BY ONE AUTHOR

Last Name, First Name. *Title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Print.

Protzman, Fred. *Work: The World of Photographs*. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2006. Print.

▪ BOOK BY MULTIPLE AUTHORS

Last Name, First Name and First Name Last Name. *Title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Print.

Bradley, James and Ron Powers. *Flags of Our Fathers*. New York: Bantam Books, 2006. Print.

▪ BOOK WITH NO AUTHOR

Title. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Print.

American Environmentalism. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2004. Print.

▪ EDITED BOOK

Last Name of Editor, First Name, ed. *Title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Print.

Aberback, Joel, ed. *The Executive Branch*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Print.

▪ WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY (includes Essays, Poems, Articles, or Stories from a Collection)

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Anthology*. Ed. Editor's Name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Page(s). Print.

Lippman, Matthew. "Hallelujah Terrible." *The Best American Poetry 1997*. Ed. James Tate. NY: Scribner, 1997. 132. Print.

▪ ENCYCLOPEDIA

Last Name, First Name. "Title of article." *Encyclopedia*. Year ed. Print.

Brown, Norman. "India." *Encyclopedia Americana*. 2002 ed. Print.

▪ MULTIVOLUME REFERENCE

Last Name, First Name. *Title*. Vol. #. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Print.

Brannen, Daniel E. *Supreme Court Drama: Cases That Changed America*. Vol. 2. Detroit: UXL, 2001. Print.

ARTICLES – Print and Database

▪ MAGAZINE ARTICLE (weekly magazine)

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Magazine*. Day Month Year: Page number(s). Print.

Levy, Steven. "Power to the People." *Newsweek* 24 Sept. 2007: 46-50. Print.

▪ MAGAZINE ARTICLE (monthly magazine)

Same format as above, leave out Day

▪ JOURNAL ARTICLE

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Journal Name* Vol. Issue number (date): Page number(s). Print.

Applebee, Arthur. "Engaging Students in the Disciplines of English." *English Journal* 91. 6 (2002): 23-29. Print.

▪ NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Newspaper* Day Month Year: (Section letter, if any) page(s). Print

Barnard, Anne. "New York Investigating Facebook's Safety Rules." *New York Times* 25 Sept. 2007: B3. Print.

▪ MAGAZINE ARTICLE FROM AN INTERNET DATABASE

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Magazine*. Day Month Year: Page number(s). *Database Name*. Web. Day Month Year accessed.

Weir, Ken. "Who Needs Sleep?" *Current Health*. Oct2005: 16-19. *OmniFile Full Text Select*. Web. 23 Sept. 2008.

▪ JOURNAL ARTICLE FROM AN INTERNET DATABASE

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Journal Name* Vol. Issue number (date): Page number(s). *Database Name*. Web. Day Month Year accessed.

Lewin, May. "How Consumers Respond to Warrantees in Internet Retailing." *The Journal of Consumer Affairs* 40. 2 (2006): 236-260. *ProQuest*. Web. 26 June 2009.

▪ NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM AN INTERNET DATABASE

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Newspaper* Day Month Year: (Section letter, if any) page(s). *Database Name*. Web. Day Month Year accessed.

Shea, Kathleen. "The Remarkably Inexact Science of College Selection." *The Star-Ledger* 8 July 2007: 6. *Gale InfoTrac*. Web. 19 August 2007.

WEB PAGES

Important to Note

It may be difficult to identify citation information from a web page or web site. You might not find an author, date or sponsoring agency. Gather as much information as you can by navigating through web pages and follow the order of the format with as much information as you have.

• **WEB PAGES WITHIN A WEB SITE**

Last name, First Name. "Title of Web Page." *Title of Web Site*. Publisher or Sponsor (if not available, use N.p.), Day Month, Year of Web Site (if not available, use n.d.). Web. Day Month Year accessed.

Grondine, Tracy. "Retail Food Prices Up 4 Percent in Second Quarter." *The Voice of Agriculture*. American Farm Bureau, 12 July 2007. Web. 1 October 2007.

• **WEB SITE**

Title of Web Site. Sponsoring Agency, Day Month Year of Web Site. Web. Day Month Year accessed.

Great Web Sites for Kids. American Library Association, 2004. Web. 26 Sept. 2007.

• **E-MAIL MESSAGE**

Last Name of Writer, First Name. "Subject Line." Message to the Author. Web. Day Month Year of message. E-mail.

Smith, John. "Regarding Your Research Request." Message to Mary S. Jones. 16 September 2008. E-mail.

There are many other possible print, Web based and non-print sources, such as pictures, radio broadcasts, television, sound recording, map, interview, advertisement, cartoons, letters, legal sources, etc. Please refer to published guide for appropriate formats, or ask your teacher or librarian.

D MLA Style In-Text Citations (Parenthetical Reference)

"In text" or "parenthetical" citation directs readers to view full citations for sources in a Works Cited page.

You must indicate a source when using thoughts or words as a direct quote, paraphrase, or discussed in your writing that originated from someone else. Unless you are stating your own personal opinion, drawing conclusions, or writing creative material, all facts, background data and ideas come from some place and must be acknowledged in your text.

REMEMBER TO FORMULATE COMPLETE CITATIONS TO BE ABLE TO CITE IN-TEXT REFERENCES.

Note correct punctuation in the example below.

- **Refer to the author's name in the text, and put the page number in parentheses.**
Smith states that the growth of cities was an integral part of the nation's economic development.
- **Include the author's name with the page number if you have not mentioned it in your text.**
The growth of cities was an integral part of the nation's economic development. (Hays 47)
- **If there is no author, use the first word of the title in quotation marks followed by the page(s).**
("Chronicle" 8-9)
- **If there are several works by one author, include the first word from the title (or more if needed) to further identify the source.**
(Nardo "Ancient" 94).
- **If there are no page numbers, as in web sites, leave this out.**
- **A web address or URL is never correct for in-text citation.**

E Footnotes and Endnotes

Sometimes teachers ask for footnotes or an endnote page. For footnotes, each reference you are documenting is consecutively numbered on the bottom of the page. For Endnotes, each reference you are documenting is numbered consecutively on a page at the end. Use the in-text or parenthetical format for each numbered item. A "Works Cited" page must be included in addition to footnotes or an endnote page.

F Citation Help on the Internet

The sites below can format your citations. Input correct information and select MLA format. New MLA formats (4/2009) are supported.

<http://citationmachine.net/>

<http://www.easybib.com/>

<http://www.bibme.org>

G Sample Works Cited List

Works Cited

- American Environmentalism. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2004. Print.
- Applebee, Arthur. "Engaging Students in the Discipline of English." *English Journal* 91. 6(2002): 23-29. Print.
- Barnard, Anne. "New York Investigating Facebook's Safety Rules." *New York Times*. 25 Sept. 2007:B3. Print.
- Bradley, James and Ron Powers. *Flags of Our Fathers*. New York: Bantam Books, 2006. Print.
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- Smith, John. "Regarding Your Research Request." Message to Mary S. Jones. 16 September 2008. E-mail.
- Weir, Ken. "Who Needs Sleep?" *Current Health*. Oct2005: 16-19. *OmniFile Full Text Select*. Web. 23 Sept. 2008.

MEDIA

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Multimedia Sources (including online versions)

Film, video, or DVD

• Citing a Film

Title. Contributors. Distributor, Year of Release. Medium Viewed. *Little Miss Sunshine*. Dir. Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris. Perf. Greg Kinnear, Steve Carell, Toni Collette, Paul Dano, Abigail Breslin, and Alan Arkin. Fox Searchlight, 2006. DVD.

• Citing a Film from a Website

Title. Contributors. Distributor, Year of release. *Website name*. Web. Date accessed. *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* Dir. Lasse Hallstrom. Perf. Johnny Depp, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Juliette Lewis. Paramount, 1993. *Hulu*. Web. 2 July 2010.

• Citing a video clip hosted on a website

Title. Contributors. Distributor, Year of release. *Website name*. Web. Date accessed. *Watermelon Baby*. Prod. CrazyLaughAction. 2010. *YouTube*. Web. 22 July 2010.

• Video Published Directly online

Title. Contributors. *Website name*. Website publisher, Date of electronic publication. Web. Date accessed. *Every Single California Gurls Parody*. Prod. CH Staff. *YouTube*. Connected Ventures, 22 July 2010. Web. 24 July 2010.

Images

Photograph: An image produced by a camera

• Citing a Photograph

Last, First M. *Photograph name*. Year created. Photograph. Museum/collection, City located. Cartier-Bresson, Henri. *Juvisy, France*. 1938. Photograph. The Museum of Modern Art, New York City.

• Citing a photograph posted on a website

Last, First M. *Photograph name*. Year Created. Museum/collection, City located. *Website name*. Web. Date accessed. Cartier-Bresson, Henri. *Juvisy, France*. 1938. The Museum of Modern Art, New York City. *MoMa*. Web. 24 June 2010.

• Citing a photograph from a book

Last, First M. *Photograph name*. Year created. Museum/collection, City located. *Title of source*. City published: Publisher, Year published. Page(s). Print. Bennett, Peter. *Antique Shop, East Village. New York City: A Photographic Portrait*. Massachusetts: Twin Lights, 2004. 8. Print.

• Citing a photograph from a database

Last, First M. *Photograph name*. Year created. Museum/collection, City located. *Database*. Web. Date accessed. Freed, Leonard. *Holidaymaker Stuck in Traffic Jam*. 1965. ARTSTOR. Web. 1 July 2010.

• Citing a digital image

Digital image: a two-dimensional picture which can be viewed electronically via a computer.

Last, First M. *Official title of image*. Description of image (include when title is not available). Digital image. *Website title*. Website Publisher, Date electronically published. Web. Date accessed. Guggenheim Museum in Spain. Digital image. *howstuffworks*. HowStuffWorks. Web. 22 July 2010.

Sound

Commercially available recording

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Recording*. Artist (if different from first person or group). Manufacturer, Year of Issue. Medium. Holiday, Billie. *The Essence of Billie Holiday*. Columbia, 1991. CD.

• Citing a specific song

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Song". Artist (if different from first person or group). Manufacturer, Year of Issue. Medium. Bono, Brian Eno, the Edge, and Luciano Pavarotti. "Miss Sarajevo." *Pavarotti and Friends for the Children of Bosnia*. London, 1996. CD.

• Spoken Word

Last Name, First Name. *Work*. By First Name, Last Name. Publisher, Date of Publication. Medium. Hermann, Edward, narr. *John Adams*. By David McCullough. Simon, 2001. CD.