

# MLA Practice

Practice using your MLA Handout to put the following information in proper MLA Works Cited format

# 1. The following is bibliographic information about a book:

- Author: Charles E. Bessler
- Title: Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice
- Publication Company: Harcourt Brace
- Publication City: New York
- Copyright year: 2008

Here it is in proper MLA Works Cited  
format:

Bessler, Charles E. *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 2008. Print.

Did you:

- Use a “hanging” indent?
- Put a period at the end?
- Write the word “Print” at the end?

## 2. The following is bibliographic information about a book:

- Authors: Deborah Appleman and Joseph T. Bauer
- Title: Teaching Literary Criticism to Adolescents
- Publication City: Austin
- Publication Company: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston
- Copyright Year: 2009

# Here it is in proper MLA Works Cited format:

Appleman, Deborah, and Joseph T. Bauer.  
*Teaching Literary Criticism to Adolescents.*  
Austin: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 2009.  
Print.

Did you:

- Write the authors' names correctly?
- Use a "hanging" indent?
- Put a period at the end?
- Write "Print" at the end?

# Let's work on dates:

- In MLA format, all dates go in this format: day month year
  - For example: July 22, 2000 would be: 22 July 2000
- If the name of the month is more than five letters, you must abbreviate it, using just the first three letters and a period.
  - For example, January = Jan.; February = Feb.; and so on.
- You can choose whether you want to abbreviate March and April (Mar. and Apr.).
- The months May, June, and July generally do not get abbreviated. If you have to abbreviate June and July, you should abbreviate them like this: Jun. and Jul.

3. Practice what you've learned by putting the following dates in proper MLA format:

- a. January 31, 2007
- b. April 23, 1989
- c. March 27, 2002
- d. August 4, 2005
- e. May 10, 1999

# Did you get them right?

- January 31, 2007      31 Jan. 2007
- April 23, 1989      23 Apr. 1989 OR  
23 April 1989
- March 27, 2002      27 Mar. 2002 OR  
27 March 2002
- August 4, 2005      4 Aug. 2005
- May 10, 1999      10 May 1999

## 4. The following is bibliographic information about a newspaper article:

- Title of Article: Electrical failure likely cause of Erwin old Town Hall fire
- Author: Jim Wozniak
- Title of Newspaper: Johnson City Press
- Publication date: April 13, 2009
- Page: A1

## Here is it in proper MLA Works Cited format:

Wozniak, Jim. "Electrical failure likely cause of Erwin old Town Hall fire." *Johnson City Press* [Johnson City, TN] 13 Apr. 2009: A1. Print.

Did you:

- Write the date correctly?
- Use a "hanging" indent?
- Put a period at the end?
- Write "Print" at the end?

## Here is bibliographic information about an online article:

- Title of article: Strapped school districts cut back on buses.
- Publication date: August 24, 2009
- Title of Site: MSNBC
- Publisher: NBC
- Date of access: August 24, 2009

# Here it is in proper MLA Works Cited format:

“Strapped school districts cut back on buses.”  
*MSNBC*. NBC, 24 Aug. 2009. Web. 24 Aug. 2009.

Did you:

- Write the dates correctly?
- Use a “hanging” indent?
- Put a period at the end?
- Write “Web” in front of the access date?

## 6. Alphabetize the following Works Cited entries:

Bessler, Charles E. *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. Harcourt Brace: New York, 2008. Print.

Appleman, Deborah, and Joseph T. Bauer. *Teaching Literary Criticism to Adolescents*. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston: Austin, 2009. Print.

Wozniak, Jim. "Electrical failure likely cause of Erwin old Town Hall fire." Johnson City Press [Johnson City, TN] 13 Apr. 2009: A1. Print.

"Strapped school districts cut back on buses." *MSNBC*. NBC, 24 Aug. 2009. Web. 24 Aug. 2009.

# Did you get it right?

Appleman, Deborah, and Joseph T. Bauer. *Teaching Literary Criticism to Adolescents*. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston: Austin, 2009. Print.

Bessler, Charles E. *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. Harcourt Brace: New York, 2008. Print.

“Strapped school districts cut back on buses.” *MSNBC*. NBC, 24 Aug. 2009. Web. 24 Aug. 2009.

Wozniak, Jim. “Electrical failure likely cause of Erwin old Town Hall fire.” *Johnson City Press* [Johnson City, TN] 13 Apr. 2009: A1. Print.

# Now let's practice figuring out what words to use in your in-text citations

- Always use the first word or words from the Works Cited entry so it's easy for your reader to find your source.
- Look at the logic:
  - Works Cited entries have “hanging” indents (the first line is not indented but the others are – the reverse of a normal paragraph)
  - With a hanging indent, your readers' eyes are automatically drawn to the first word or words of each entry.
  - Therefore, you want your in-text citation to refer your reader to the first word or words of the source since, logically, that's where their eyes are drawn.

## Like this:

- Appleman, Deborah, and Joseph T. Bauer. *Teaching Literary Criticism to Adolescents*. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston: Austin, 2009. Print. (Appleman and Bauer 43)
- Bessler, Charles E. *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. Harcourt Brace: New York, 2008. Print. (Bessler 213)
- “Strapped school districts cut back on buses.” *MSNBC*. NBC, 24 Aug. 2009. Web. 24 Aug. 2009. (“Strapped”)
- Wozniak, Jim. “Electrical failure likely cause of Erwin old Town Hall fire.” *Johnson City Press* [Johnson City, TN] 13 Apr. 2009: A1. Print. (Wozniak A1)

# Practice:

“Morristown family survives 100-foot drop into Clinch River.” *Kingsport Times-News* [Kingsport, TN] 13 Apr. 2009: B4. Print.

Gamble, Ed. “NASA Searches for Lost Planet.” *FOXNews.com*. FOX, 31 Mar. 2009. Web. 13 Apr. 2009

“A Murder Most Strange.” *APOnline*. Associated Press, 22 July 2007. Web. 13 Apr. 2009.

Zebedia, Arthur. *Ideology and Symbols in Flannery O’Connor’s Short Stories*. Harper Collins: Pittsburgh, 2005. Print.

# Did you get it right?

- “Morristown family survives 100-foot drop into Clinch River.” *Kingsport Times-News* [Kingsport, TN] 13 Apr. 2009: B4. Print. (“Morristown” B4)
- Gamble, Ed. “NASA Searches for Lost Planet.” *FOXNews.com*. FOX, 31 Mar. 2009. Web. 13 Apr. 2009 (Gamble)
- “A Murder Most Strange.” *APOnline*. Associated Press, 22 July 2007. Web. 13 Apr. 2009. (“Murder”)
- Zebedia, Arthur. *Ideology and Symbols in Flannery O’Connor’s Short Stories*. Harper Collins: Pittsburgh, 2005. Print. (Zebedia 48)