

CITING SOURCES: MLA STYLE

This handout gives examples of the style of documentation recommended by the MLA (Modern Language Association) and is based on the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* published in April 2009. When using the examples, be sure to follow the punctuation and format exactly as shown: put periods, commas, and colons in the same places. Use one space after a colon, comma, and period. If a bibliographic citation is more than one line, use double spacing with a hanging indent (see examples on page 2). For additional examples, refer to the online *Mission College MLA Style Booklet* available from the "Handouts" page of the Mission College Library Website (Mission College Library>Research Resources>Handouts>MLA Style Booklet) or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

Works Cited (bibliographic citations)

All sources cited at the end of a paper are called bibliographic citations and are listed on a separate page with the heading **Works Cited**. This page follows the last page of your paper, and should be numbered.

Each source is listed alphabetically by the last name of the author or editor, or by the first word of the title if there is no author or editor. (Disregard articles "A", "An" and "The".) If there are two or more items by the same author, put them in order alphabetically by title. Use three dashes (---) to replace the author's name on all entries following the first. Entries are double-spaced. The first line of each entry is not indented, but the rest of the entry is indented a half inch (this is called a hanging indentation). The title is italicized. (If the material is part of a larger work such as a magazine or web site, only the title of the *complete work* is italicized). Every entry includes a "medium of publication" marker. The medium of publication marker refers to the format of the item. Most entries will be listed as Print or Web, but other possibilities include Performance, DVD, or TV. For most bibliographic citations the medium will appear at the end of the entry; however, for Web citations the access date follows the medium.

Book with a single author: Each citation should include the author's last name and first name, title of the work (in italics), place of publication (followed by a colon), publisher, year of publication, followed by the medium. Publisher names are usually shortened to one or two words.

French, Warren. *A Companion to the Grapes of Wrath*. New York: Viking, 1963. Print.

Newspaper article: Each citation should include the author's last name and first name, if available, title of the article (in quotes), name of the newspaper (in italics), date of publication, (followed by a comma), section, if available (followed by a colon), inclusive page numbers, followed by the medium. Give the first page number, followed by +, if the pages are not continuous. Note that the day of the month is listed *before* the month. Use standard abbreviations for months; do not abbreviate April, May, or June.

Bradsher, Keith. "China Cuts Bond Buys from U.S. and Others." *New York Times* 13 April 2009: B1+. Print.

Magazine article: Each citation should include the author's last name and first name, if available, title of the article (in quotes), name of the magazine (in italics), date of publication (followed by a colon), inclusive page numbers, followed by the medium. Give the first page number, followed by +, if the pages are not continuous. Note that the day of the month is listed *before* the month. Use standard abbreviations for months; do not abbreviate April, May, or June.

Koss-Feder, Laura. "Bunking In With Mom and Dad." *Time* 2 Mar. 2009: 45-46. Print.

Scholarly journal article: Each citation should include the author's last name and first name, title of the article (in quotes), name of the journal (in italics), volume number, issue number (Only use the issue number if the journal pages each issue separately. Add the issue number directly after the volume number with a period between them, but not an intervening space. For combined issues use a dash between the issue numbers.), year of publication (in parenthesis and followed by a colon), inclusive page numbers, followed by the medium of publication marker.

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3-4 (1981): 77-80. Print.

Previously published scholarly article in a collection: Give the complete citation for the scholarly article and then add *Rpt. in* (“Reprinted in”), followed by the information for the collection, including the page numbers of the article, and lastly, the medium.

Hafen, P. Jane. “Sacramental Language: Ritual in the Poetry of Louise Erdrich.” *Great Plains Quarterly* 16.3 (1969): 147-55. Rpt. in *Poetry Criticism*. Ed. David Galens. Vol. 52. Detroit: Gale, 2004. 189-195. Print.

Articles from a database: Magazine, journal and newspaper articles which are reproduced in an electronic database online, such as *Expanded Academic ASAP* or *eLibrary*, are cited like printed articles, with additional information added at the end: the name of the database (in italics), the medium, and the date of access. This example is an article from a scholarly journal. Note that the day of the month is listed *before* the month. Use standard abbreviations for months; do not abbreviate April, May, or June.

Barthelme, Frederick. “Architecture.” *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3-4 (1981): 77. *Expanded Academic ASAP*. Web. 4 May 2004.

Web page: Note that online books and periodical articles with a print equivalent are cited like printed articles with additional information added at the end: name of the Website (in italics), the medium, and the date of access.

Each citation should include the author's last name and first name, if available, the title of the page, if applicable (in quotation marks), the name of the overall Website, if different from the title (In italics), publisher or sponsor of the site (if not available use N.p.), date of publication (if not available use n.d.), medium, and the date of access. Note that the day of the month is listed *before* the month. Use standard abbreviations for months; do not abbreviate April, May, or June.

Note: MLA does not require that Web citations contain the URL (Web address), however, most instructors do require URLs as part of the citation. Be sure to check the requirements for your instructor. If the address is required, include the entire URL in brackets at the end of the citation: <<http://www.fmcc.edu>>.

“Rhythm Road – American Music Abroad.” *Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*. U.S. Department of State, n.d. Web. 14 Jan. 2009. <<http://exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html>>.

Citations in the text (in-text citations)

Citations in the text are a basic part of every research paper. Anyone reading your paper should be able to look up your sources and check them. Any time you use a direct quote, paraphrase something you have read, or use a specific idea or fact from your reading, you need to cite the source within the body of your paper.

MLA style uses parenthetical citations to refer the reader to the specific item in the “Works Cited” list. Citations are placed in the body of your paper, following the specific part of the text to which they apply. If the parenthetical citation is at the end of a sentence, place it before the period. To cite a specific book or article use the author’s last name. If there is no author listed, use the first few words of the title in quotes. To cite a direct quote or give credit for something such as a fact, chart, or graph, include the specific page number. When a source has no page numbers or any other kind of reference numbers, no number can be given in the parenthetical reference; the work must be cited in its entirety in the text.

Citing a book or article:	(Waller)
Citing a specific page, fact, or quote:	(French 25)
Citing a source with no author:	(“Virginia Declaration”)
A source without page numbers:	Smith reported a 45% increase this quarter.

For more information about MLA style:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers: Mission College Library Ref LB 2369 .G53 2009

Mission College MLA Style Booklet: <http://www.missioncollege.org/lib/handouts/MLA2009.pdf>