Documenting Research Papers: MLA Style

To document the facts and ideas that you find and use in your research, create a list of sources of information (works) cited and a series of references that indicate which facts and ideas came from which source. The Modern Language Association (MLA) style of documentation is widely used in the United States. This handout explains and provides examples of the most common types of citations in MLA. For more detailed explanations or for more unusual types of citations, please see MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, (7th Edition), call number REF LB 2369.G53 2009, which is available at the Reference Desk, or ask a librarian for assistance.

Works Cited Basics

- Double space all lines within and between entries. Examples provided on this handout are single spaced to save space.
- Indent one-half inch (5 spaces) before the second and all subsequent lines in the citation.
- Include all sources actually cited in your paper with parenthetical references (see below).
- If no author is listed, begin the citation with the title.
- Titles must be in this format: the first word in the title and the first letter of all major words in the title are capitalized.
- Arrange the completed citations in one alphabetical list.
- Give only the first city of publication.
- Give the shortest form of the publisher’s name.
- Abbreviate the names of all months except May, June and July.
- Indicate missing information with n. pag. (no pagination), n.p. (no publisher) or n.d. (no date).
- All citations end with a period.
- Caution: Citations provided by databases are not always correct. Verify for accuracy.

The boxes below show both specific information you will need for citing and an example for each type of resource.

Formats and Examples for Print Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book: One Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last name, First name. Title of Book. City of publication: Publisher, Date. Type of publication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Book: Multiple Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First author’s Last name, First name, and First and Last names of 2nd – final authors. Title. City of publication: Publisher, Date. Type of publication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: If there are one, two or three authors, be sure all are listed. If there are four or more, list only the first author and replace the remaining authors with “et al.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book: Chapter or Article</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article/Chapter.” Reference Book Title. Ed. Editor’s First and Last name. Edition. Volume number. City of publication: Publisher, Date. Type of publication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book: Work in an Anthology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Work.” Title of Anthology. Ed. Editor’s First and Last name. City of publication: Publisher, Date. Pages. Type of publication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Journal Title Volume number. Issue number (Year): pages. Type of publication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Magazine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Magazine Title Date (day month year): pages. Type of publication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Newspaper Title [Place of publication] Date (day month year), Edition (if available): Section Page. Type of publication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Formats and Examples for Online Resources

**eBook**

Author’s Last name, First name. *Title of book*. City of publication: Publisher, Date. *Name of Database or Website*. Type of publication. Date of access (day month year).


**Articles from Databases (Journal)**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” *Journal Title* Volume number. Issue number (Year): pages (use n. pag. if none). *Name of Database*. Type of publication. Date of access (day month year).


**Articles from Databases (Reprint)**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article/Chapter.” *Original Book Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Date. Rpt. (Reprinted) in *Title of Book*. Ed. Editor’s first and last name. City of Publication: Publisher, Date. Series Title. *Name of Database*. Type of Publication. Date of Access (day month year).


**Web Site: No Author**

“Title of the Page.” *Title of the overall site*. Publisher or sponsor of site (use N.p. if none), Date (use n.d. if none). Type of publication. Date of access (day month year). <URL if needed for easy access>.


**Web Site: Organization Author**

Author or editor of site. “Title of the Work.” *Title of the overall site*. Publisher or sponsor of site (use N.p. if none), Date (day month year; use n.d. if none). Type of publication. Date of access (day month year). <URL if needed for easy access>.


Formats and Examples for Other Resources

**Images: Commercial**

Photographer/Creator’s Last name, First name. *Title of Image* (if none, use Untitled). Year image was taken. Type of image. *Title of Website*. Where image is stored. Type of publication. Date of access (day month year). <URL if needed for easy access>.


**Images: Personal**

Photographer/Creator’s Last name, First name. *Title of Image* (if none, use Untitled). Year image was taken. Type of image. Type of publication. Where image is stored. Date of access (day month year). <URL if needed for easy access>.


**Interview**

Last name of person interviewed, First name. Type of interview. Date of interview (day month year).

*Note: Use “Telephone interview,” “E-mail interview” or “Personal interview” as appropriate.*

Sargent, Margaret. Personal interview. 15 Feb. 2012.

**Motion Picture/Video/DVD**

*Recording Title*. Dir. First and Last name of director. Distributer, Date of release. Type of recording.


**Sound Recording**

Artist’s Last name, First name, role of artist. “Song Title.” *Title of Recording*. Recording date if available. Manufacturer, Date of issue. Type of recording.


**YouTube Broadcast**

Producer’s Last name, First name. “Title of Program.” *YouTube*. Name of sponsor or publisher, Date of creation. Web. Date of access (day month year). <URL if needed for easy access>.

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Additional Examples for Online Resources

Research Databases:

Academic Search Premier

Academic VIDEO Online

Business Source Premier: Company Profile

CQ Researcher

Credo Reference

Gale Virtual Reference Library

Global Road Warrior

Lexis Nexis Academic

Literature Resource Center (Reprint)

Opposing Viewpoints in Context:

Opposing Viewpoints in Context: Journal Article

ProQuest Newstand

ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source

SIRS Researcher

Web Sites:

When you quote from a source or use an idea taken from the work of someone else, note this in the text of your paper with a parenthetical reference. Place the author’s last name and the page number in parentheses after the material used as close as possible to the material being documented, preferably at the end of a sentence. When no author is available, use the shortest form of the title necessary to identify the work from your list of Works Cited and the page number. When no page number is available, cite the entire work. If the author’s name appears in the text, it may be omitted from the parenthetical reference. Include the complete citation to the work in the list of works cited at the end of the paper.

**The text would state:** Medieval Europe was a place “of raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion, and of traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns, and active markets in grain” (Townsend 126).

**Or the text could state:** According to Townsend, Medieval Europe was a place “of raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion, and of traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns, and active markets in grain” (126).


**If there is no author:** Begin the reference with the first word or two of the title. For example: (“Violence” 688).

**If there is no page number:** Cite the entire work (that is, do not include a page number). For example: (“Type 2 Diabetes”).

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**Works Cited**


