

MLA STYLE: A BRIEF GUIDE

The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 5th edition, 1999, is the standard guide for college students to the documentation style of the Modern Languages Association (MLA). The following information and most of the examples are taken from the *Handbook*. Consult the full *Handbook* (at the reference desk, 808.02 G437m 1999) for specific citation types not included here. **ALSO: The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University has created a very good online guide (with lots of examples) to the MLA style. You can access it at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html**

Reference Citation in Text

In the text of your paper you must document sources from which you are quoting or paraphrasing using brief parenthetical citations that correspond to your alphabetical list of works-cited at the end of the paper. Here is an example:

Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras, who lived in the sixth century BC (Marcuse 197).

The parenthetical citation "(Marcuse 197)" tells the reader that the information in the sentence was derived from page 197 of a work by an author named Marcuse. If the reader wants more information about this source, he/she can turn to the works-cited list, where a complete citation for Marcuse's work will be found.

The Works-Cited List

The list of works cited appears at the end of the paper. Center the title, *Works Cited*, an inch from the top of the page. Double-space between the title and the first entry. Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line or lines one-half inch from the left margin. Double-space entire list, both between and within entries.

Citing a book with an author(s) or editor(s):

Format	Author's Last Name, First Name and Initial. <u>Title of the Book</u> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication.
Example	Marcuse, Sibyl. <u>A Survey of Musical Instruments</u> . New York: Harper, 1975.
Example	Feldman, Paula R., ed. <u>British Women Poets of the Romantic Era</u> . Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997.
Example	Marquart, James W., Sheldon Ekland Olson, and Jonathan R. Sorensen. <u>The Rope, the Chair, and the Needle: Capital Punishment in Texas, 1923-1990</u> . Austin: U of Texas P, 1994.

Note: if there are more than three authors, you may name only the first and add **et al** ("and others")

Citing a book by a corporate author:

Format	Corporate Author's Name. <u>Title of the Book</u> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication.
Example	American Medical Association. <u>The American Medical Association Encyclopedia of Medicine</u> . New York: Random, 1989.
Example	National Research Council. <u>China and Global Change: Opportunities for Collaboration</u> . Washington: Natl. Acad., 1992.

Citing a Work in an Anthology:

Format	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of the Work Being Cited." <u>Title of the Anthology</u> . Editor of the Anthology. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication [of the anthology]. Page numbers of the cited piece.
Example	Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. <u>A Hammock Beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America</u> . Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88.
Example	More, Hannah. "The Black Slave Trade: A Poem." <u>British Women Poets of the Romantic Era</u> . Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472-82.

Citing an Article in a Reference Book

Format	Author's Last Name, First Name. [if the article is unsigned, give the title first] "Title of the Article." <u>Title of the Reference Work</u> . Edition. Date of Publication. [When citing less familiar reference books, give the place of publication and publisher].
Example	Mohanty, Jitendra M. "Indian Philosophy." <u>The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropaedia</u> . 15 th ed. 1987.
Example	Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." <u>Encyclopedia of Bioethics</u> . Ed. Warren T. Reich. Rev. ed. Vol. 4. New York: Macmillan-Simon, 1995.

Citing a Government Publication:

Format	Government Name. Government Agency. <u>Title of Publication</u> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication.
Example	United States. Census Bureau. <u>Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2001</u> . Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2001.
Example	Great Britain. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food. <u>National Food Survey</u> . London: HMSO, 1993.
Example	California. Dept. of Justice. <u>California Attorney General's Women's Rights Handbook</u> . Sacramento: Office of the Attorney General, 1990.

Citing an Article in a Scholarly Journal:

Format	Author's Name. "Title of the Article." <u>Title of the Periodical</u> volume number.issue number [if there is one] (date): pages.
Example	Craner, Paul M. "New Tool for an Ancient Art: The Computer and Music." <u>Computers and the Humanities</u> 25 (1991): 303-13.
Example	Vickery, Laurie. "The Politics of Abuse: The Traumatized Child in Toni Morrison and Marguerite Duras." <u>Mosaic</u> 29.2 (1996): 91-109.

Citing an Article in a Magazine:

Format	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Title of Magazine</u> Month and year: pages. [Do NOT give the volume and issue numbers even if they are listed.]
Example	Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly. "The Creative Personality." <u>Psychology Today</u> July-Aug. 1996: 36-40.
Example	Armstrong, Larry, Dori Jones Yang, and Alice Cuneo. "The Learning Revolution: Technology Is Reshaping Education—at Home and at School." <u>Business Week</u> 28 Feb. 1994: 80-88.

Citing an Article in a Newspaper:

Format	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Name of Newspaper</u> day Month year, edition of newspaper: section [if there is one] and page number.
Example	Lohr, Steve. "Now Playing: Babes in Cyberspace." <u>New York Times</u> 3 Apr. 1998, late ed.: C1+.
Example	Kiernan, Vincent. "Study Finds Errors in Medical Information Available on the Web." <u>Chronicle of Higher Education</u> 12 June 1998: A25.