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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example</th>
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Citing a Work in an Anthology:

<table>
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<th>Format</th>
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</table>
## Citing an Article in a Reference Book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last Name, First Name. [if the article is unsigned, give the title first] “Title of the Article.” Title of the Reference Work. Edition. Date of Publication. [When citing less familiar reference books, give the place of publication and publisher].</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example


## Citing a Government Publication:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Name. Government Agency. Title of Publication. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example


## Citing an Article in a Scholarly Journal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Name. “Title of the Article.” Title of the Periodical volume number.issue number [if there is one] (date): pages.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example


## Citing an Article in a Magazine:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” Title of Magazine Month and year: pages. [Do NOT give the volume and issue numbers even if they are listed.]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example


## Citing an Article in a Newspaper:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article.” Name of Newspaper day Month year, edition of newspaper: section [if there is one] and page number.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example
