



## MLA STYLE ~ REFERENCE

### With Detailed Citation Examples

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is usually used when writing papers for literature, the arts, or the humanities. The following is a brief guide to formatting and citing sources using MLA Style. Students should consult *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, for more detailed information.

#### Formatting Guidelines

**Margins and Spacing** – All margins should be set at 1 (one) inch (top, bottom, left, and right). The first word of each paragraph should be indented ½ inch or 5 (five) spaces from the left margin. The paper should be *double-spaced* throughout, including quotations, notes, and works cited.

**Parenthetical Citations** – Brief references to the full citation should be inserted within the text whenever another person’s words or ideas are incorporated into your own work. The brief reference should usually contain the author’s last name and the appropriate page numbers in parentheses. For example: The theory has been proposed in the past (Jones 56-83). *or* Jones has proposed this theory in the past (56-83).

**Page Numbering** – Page numbers should be placed in the upper right hand corner of each page, ½ inch from the top of the page and 1 (one) inch from the right side of the page. Numbering should start on the first page and continue to the end. Your last name should be inserted before the page number on every page.

**General Rules** – The first line of each citation should not be indented, but each following line should be indented ½ inch or 5 (five) spaces from the left margin. This is a **hanging indention**. Alphabetize the citations by the authors’ last names; use the title if no author is given. As in the rest of your paper, all lines should be *double-spaced*.

#### Citing Sources

**Information to Include** – Most citations should contain the same basic elements if given, e.g., author, title, publisher, etc. The type of resource determines other elements that may be included.

#### Books and Non-periodical Resources

The following are the most common elements, in order, for print book and non-periodical resources (NOTE THAT NOT ALL INFORMATION SOURCES INCLUDE ALL OF THESE ELEMENTS. IF ONE IS NOT GIVEN, SKIP TO THE NEXT ELEMENT)

Name(s) of author(s). “Title of a part of a book.” Book title. Name of any stated editor, translator or compiler. Edition used. Number(s) of volumes used of a multi-volume work. Series title & # if given. Place of publication (use the 1<sup>st</sup> city listed & only the city name for major cities, e.g. New York, London, etc.): Publisher name (include imprint name 1<sup>st</sup> if given), date of publication (latest copyright year). Page numbers if from a larger work. Supplementary bibliographic information/annotation as needed.

- **Book with a single author:**

Kushner, Arnold S. When Bad Things Happen to Good People. New York: Anchor Books-Random House, 2004.

- **Book with two authors:**

Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything. New York: William Morrow-HarperCollins, 2005.

- **Book with three or more authors:**

Lane, Nancy, et al. Techniques for Student Research. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc., 2000.

- **Books with corporate or organizational authors:**

American Bar Association. Family Legal Guide. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Random House, 2004.

- **Book with an unknown author:** (Do NOT use either *Anonymous* or *Anon*)  
Go Ask Alice. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1971.

- **Edited Book:**  
Rauhut, Nils Ch. ed. Readings on the Ultimate Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Penguin Academics-Pearson Longman, 2007.

- **A Work in an Anthology:**  
Franco, Veronica. "To the Painter Jacopo Tintoretto." Poems and Selected Letters. Ed. and trans. Ann Rosalind Jones and Margaret Rosenthal. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1998. 35-37.

- **Article or Entry in an Encyclopedia or Dictionary (general reference works)** (list only edition and year of publication for common reference works; for more specialized and less familiar reference works, give more information):

"Shakespeare, William." The World Book Encyclopedia. 2005 ed.

"Magnetic resonance." Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Deluxe ed. 1998.

- **Article or entry in a less familiar or specialized reference work:**  
Skutsch, Carl. "Ireland: the Troubles Since 1968." Encyclopedia of Conflicts Since World War II. James Ciment, ed. Vol. 3. Armonk, NY: Sharpe Reference-M. E. Sharpe, 1999. 821-834.

- **A Multivolume Work:** use if you are citing 2 or more volumes in a multi-volume work  
Blanco, Richard L., ed. The American Revolution, 1775-1783: An Encyclopedia. 2 vols. Hamden: Garland, 1993.

### Print Periodical Resources

The following are the most common elements, in order, for print periodical resources (NOTE THAT NOT ALL INFORMATION SOURCES INCLUDE ALL OF THESE ELEMENTS. IF ONE IS NOT GIVEN, SKIP TO THE NEXT ELEMENT)

Name(s) of author(s). "Article title." Title of the periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper, etc.) Series # or name (e.g., ns), if given. Vol # (for scholarly journals, not for popular magazines) Issue # (if given). Date of publication (may be the year [2005], month & year [Oct 2005], or the exact date [10 Oct 2005]; use what is given). Page numbers. Supplementary information.

- **Article in Journal with Continuous Pagination** (the volume number follows the journal title and page numbers follow the year; do not use captions, e.g., Vol. or V., or abbreviations, e.g., p. or Pp., etc.):  
Spear, Karen. "Building Cognitive Skills in Basic Writers." Teaching English in the Two-Year College 9 (1983): 908-18.

- **Article in Journal with Each Issue Paged Separately** (the volume and issue number follow the title):  
Lyon, George Ella. "Contemporary Appalachian Poetry: Sources and Directions." Kentucky Review 2.2 (1981): 98-101.

- **Article in a Weekly or Biweekly Periodical (popular):**  
Begley, Sharon. "A Healthy Dose of Laughter." Newsweek 4 Oct. 1982: 60-88.

- **Article in a Monthly or Bimonthly Periodical:**  
Snyder, Mark. "Self-Fulfilling Stereotypes." Psychology Today July 1982: 23-29.

- **Newspaper Article** (if there is no author listed, start with the title of the article):  
Collin, Glenn. "Single-Father Survey Finds Adjustment Problem." New York Times 21 Nov. 1983: B17+.

## Electronic Resources

The following are the most common elements, in order, for electronic resources (NOTE THAT NOT ALL INFORMATION SOURCES INCLUDE ALL OF THESE ELEMENTS. IF ONE IS NOT GIVEN, SKIP TO THE NEXT ELEMENT)

Author name. Document title (in quotations if an article or a section of a website, underlined if it's the entire site or an online book). Relevant print documentation (following the guidelines for print resources). Information about the electronic publication (Title of the site or database source, underlined. Editor's name, if given. Date of electronic publication or latest update. Name of sponsoring institution or organization.) Access information (includes: the date of access and the site's URL (enclosed in angle brackets, the URL for the main site may be used if the URL for the direct link is too long).

- **Articles from an Online Database** (Journal & Newspaper):

Tangley, Laura. "Swamping Louisiana." National Wildlife 40.3 (Apr. 2002): 26. Academic Search Complete. EBSCO. River Parishes Community College, Sorrento, LA. 21 July 2008 <<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=6406808&site=ehost-live>>.

Elie, Lolis Eric. "An Honor that's Truly Undeserved." Times-Picayune 16 Feb. 2004. LexisNexis Academic. River Parishes Community College, Sorrento, LA. 21 July 2008 <<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic>>.

- **An Entire Website:**

Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. Apr. 1997. Indiana U. 26 Feb. 2000 <<http://www.indiana.edu/~lettrs/vwwp/>>.

- **Work or portion from a Website:**

Delbanco, Dawn. "Chinese Handscrolls." Timeline of Art History. April 2008. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 21 July 2008 <[http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/chhs/hd\\_chhs.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/chhs/hd_chhs.htm)>

- **An Online Book:**

Blythe, Camenson. Careers in Writing. Chicago, Ill.: NTC Contemporary, 2001. River Parishes Community College, Sorrento, LA. 9 Oct. 2002 <<http://www.netlibrary.com>>.

- **Article from a Professional Website:**

"Scientists: most distant object in Solar System found." CNN.com. 15 Mar. 2004. Cable News Network. 23 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/space>>.

**For examples for citing other types of information, such as other print sources (e.g., theses, dissertations, etc.) or various non-print materials (e.g., television programs, art work, music, etc.), see the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, call number **LB 2369 .G53 2003**. Several copies are available for check-out.**

### *Tips:*

- Record complete citation information for each of your sources during your search process so that you will not need to go back later and search again for the information.
- Always carefully cite your sources within your paper and on the Works Cited page in order to avoid plagiarism.
- For more information on citing *other online sources*, refer to one of the following reference sites on the Internet:

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/citing.htm>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01>

<http://thewritesource.com/mla.htm>

<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocMLA.html>