

MLA Documentation Style, 2009 ed.

A guide from the Landmark College Library

The MLA (Modern Language Association) style of citing sources is usually used in **humanities papers** (such as Fine Arts, Literature, and Philosophy papers). It is explained fully in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. (2009)*.

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Works Cited List

Books

Write information for books in the following order. You must **always include** the information below that is written in **bold**; include the other information when indicated in the specific examples below.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Author(s) | 6. Number(s) of volume(s) used |
| 2. Title of essay in book | 7. Name of the series |
| 3. Title of book | 8. Place of publication, publisher*, and copyright date |
| 4. Editor, translator, or compiler | 9. Page numbers (if using an individually authored essay) |
| 5. Edition used | 10. Medium of publication (e.g., Print, Web) |

* Omit abbreviations (*Inc.*, *Ltd.*, etc.) and descriptive words (*Books*, *House*, *Press*, *Publishers*, etc.). If the publisher is a university press, write "UP" (*Harvard UP*).

Title your list **Works Cited** and list your sources **alphabetically by author**.

Book Examples

One Author

Hentges, Sarah. *Pictures of Girlhood: Modern Female Adolescence on Film*. Jefferson, NC: MacFarland, 2006. Print.

Two Authors

Wellman, Christopher H. and John Simmons. *Is There a Duty to Obey the Law?* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Print.

Three Authors (in an Edited Collection of Essays by Different Authors)

Defries, J. C., Jacquelyn J. Gillis, and Sally J. Wadsworth. "Genes and Genders: A Twin Study of Reading Disability." *Dyslexia and Development: Neurobiological Aspects of Extra-Ordinary Brains*. Ed. Albert M. Galaburda. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1993. 187-204. Print.

Same Author, Different Works (List in alphabetical order by title.)

Rawlings, Helen. *The Spanish Inquisition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2006. Print.

---. *The Spanish Inquisition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2006. Print.

Anonymous Book

Bible. English. New Revised Standard. Iowa Falls: World, 1997. Print.

An Essay in an Anthology or Compilation

Frome, Michael. "Must This Be Lost to the Sight of Man?." *River Reflections: a Collection of River Writings*. 3rd ed. Huser, Verne, ed. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005. Print.



Cross-References (for citing different essays from the same book)

Huser, Verne, ed. *River Reflections: a Collection of River Writings*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005. Print.

Stegner, Wallace. "The Sound of Mountain Waters." Huser 79-84. Print.

Zwinger, Ann. "Run, River, Run." Huser 184-190. Print.

Book in a Series

Moats, Louisa C., ed. *Digging for Meaning: Teaching Text Comprehension*. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling 6. Boston, MA: Sopris West, 2005. Print.

Encyclopedia

Angelo, Joseph A., Jr. "Robotics in Space." *Encyclopedia of Space and Astronomy*. 1 vol. New York: Facts on File, 2006. Print.

[If there is no author listed, begin your citation with the title of the encyclopedia article.]

Online Book (e-book)

Write information for an Online Book in the following order (*skip information that is irrelevant or unavailable*):

1. Author(s)
2. Title of the book (italicized)
3. Editor, compiler, or translator
4. City of publication, publisher, copyright date of original print version
5. Title of the website (italicized) – for example, *NetLibrary* or *ebrary* or *Google Book Search*
6. URL for the book (optional in the 2009 MLA)
7. "Web" as the medium of the book.
8. Date of access.

Online Book (e-book) Example:

Gunter, Barrie, Caroline Oates, and Mark Blades. *Advertising to Children on TV: Content, Impact, and Regulation*. Mahwah, N.J: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2005. *NetLibrary*. Web. 5 April 2012.

Articles from Magazines, Journals, and Newspapers

Write information for magazine, journal, and newspaper articles in the following order:

1. Author(s)
2. Title of article
3. Name of the magazine, journal, or newspaper*
4. Volume number (for a scholarly journal)
5. Issue number (if available)
6. Date of publication
7. Page numbers**
8. Medium of publication (e.g., Print, Web)

* Omit the “The” or “A” when it begins a magazine, journal, or newspaper title. (For example: write The New York Times as *New York Times*.)

** List the pages for the **entire** article. If the article skips pages (for example, there are pages with ads between the article pages), then list only the first page of the article, followed by a plus symbol.

You may wonder, “**What’s the difference between magazines and journals?**” Here are some hints that are **usually** true:

Magazines

- glossy cover and pages
- includes advertisements
- many photos and graphics
- easier to read
- catchy, even sensational article titles
- of general interest (*Newsweek*), trade or technical interest (*PC World*), business interest (*Forbes*), or political interest (*The Nation*)

Journals

- dull cover and pages
- few or no advertisements
- few or no photos and graphics
- harder to read (jargon)
- informative, but rarely catchy article titles
- of scholarly interest for members of a specific professional field

Article Examples

Magazine Article, Monthly

Farber, Celia. “Out of Control: AIDS and the Corruption of Medical Science ?” *Harper’s* April 2006: 47. Print.

Magazine Article, Weekly

Campo-Flores, Arian. “America’s Divide.” *Newsweek* 10 April 2006: 28. Print.

Anonymous Author (Journal or Magazine)

“Coming & Going.” *National Geographic* March 2006: 19. Print.

Journal Article, with All Issues for a Volume Paged Continuously



Hong, Eunsook, Maggie Sas, and John C. Sas. "Test-Taking Strategies of High and Low Mathematics Achievers." *The Journal of Educational Research* 99.3 (2006): 144-155. Print.

Journal Article, with Each Issue Paged Separately

Gillette, Yvonne. "Assistive Technology and Literacy Partnerships." *Topics in Language Disorders* 26.1 (2006): 70-84. Print.

Newspaper Article

Tommasini, Anthony. "The Deep Emotions Hiding in Comedy" *New York Times* 3 April 2006, late ed.: E1. Print.

Newspaper Article, Anonymous Author, Sunday Edition (add section number)

"Is It a Civil War, or Something Else?" *New York Times* 26 March 2006, late ed., sec. 4: 2. Print.

Articles from Online Databases

Journal, Magazine, or Newspaper Article from an Online Database

Follow the appropriate citation format (journal, magazine, or newspaper), and then add the following information:

1. Database company (e.g., Gale; Facts.com; etc.)
2. Database name (e.g., *Gale General OneFile*; *Facts on File Issues and Controversies*; etc.), italicized.
3. "Web" as the publication medium
4. Date of access

Note: Earlier editions of MLA required information about the subscribing library (name and location) as well as the URL of the database, but MLA no longer requires this information.

Example

Fallows, James. "A Thousand Words." *The Atlantic Monthly*. 297.3 (April 2006): 133-135+. *Gale: General OneFile*. Web. 4 April 2012.



Abstract from an Online Database

Follow the appropriate citation format (journal, magazine, or newspaper), but after the article title, add the word "Abstract." After the page numbers, add the following information:

1. Abstract (type this word following the period after your page numbers)
2. Database name, italicized (e.g., *Gale General OneFile*; *Facts on File Issues and Controversies*; etc.)
3. "Web" as the publication medium
4. Date of access

Example

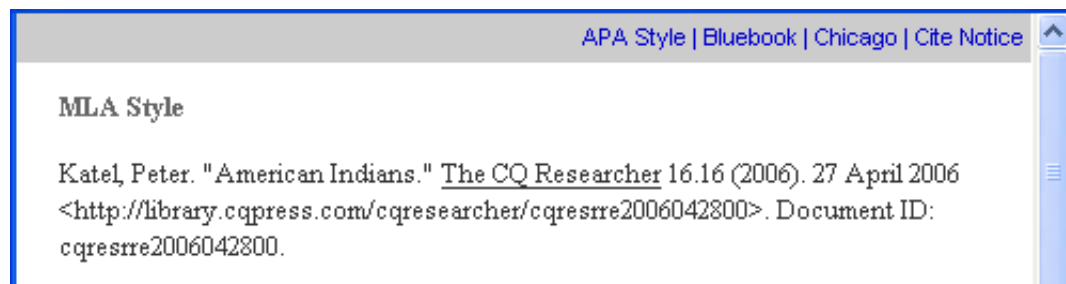
Sprackland, Robert George. "A Scientist Tells Why 'Intelligent Design' is Not Science." *Education Digest* 71.5 (Jan. 2006): 29+. Abstract. *Gale General OneFile*. Web. 4 April. 2006.

CQ Researcher Articles

Articles from the online version of the *CQ Researcher* are cited as if they are an online version of a magazine article. You can access the full citation of the article by simply clicking the **Cite Now** button at the top of the first page.



The citation will appear in a separate window. From here you may copy and paste the citation directly into your bibliography.



Web Page

Write information for Web Pages in the following order:

1. Author or editor of web page (if listed--check the top and the bottom of the web page)
2. Title of web page (within quotation marks)
3. Title of website (italicized)
4. Publisher name (name of the institution responsible for the site)
5. Date of last update (if listed – check the top and bottom of the web page. Not listed? List “n.d.” for “no date.”)
6. “Web” as medium of publication
7. Date of access

Note: As of 2009, MLA no longer requires the URL (internet address) for websites. Your instructor might want to see the URL regardless. In that case, list the URL at the end of the citation in angle brackets: <<http://www.website.org>>. If you need to split up the URL to fit on more than one line, separate the URL only after a / slash.

Professional Web Pages – pages created by or for an organization, company, the government, or a college or university – look for the “.org”, “.com”, “.gov” or “.edu” in the URL/web address.

“Assistive Technology Resources.” *International Dyslexia Association*, 2005. Web. 15 December 2005. <<http://www.interdys.org/idech/at-home.asp>>.

Lalley, Tom. “2005: A Record Year for Climate Change.” *World Wildlife Fund*, 13 Dec. 2005. Web. 15 Dec. 2005.

Personal Web Page – a page by an individual who has created the site for the general public – or at least for members of the general public with the same interests as him or her. Even if linked to an institution such as a university, his or her web page is not necessarily endorsed by that institution. One clue for determining whether or not a page is personal is to look for a tilde mark (~) near the end of the URL.

Langer, Ellen J.. “Bio.” *Ellen J. Langer*. 2006. Web. 9 Apr. 2006.

Entire Website – Just like citing a web page, but with the page name in quotes omitted.

Learning Disabilities Association. Learning Disabilities Association. 2012. Web. 23 Mar. 2012.



DVD or Video

Write information for a DVD or Video in the following order:

1. Title (italicized)
2. Director (starting with “Dir.”)
3. If relevant, list key performers (starting with “Perf.”)
4. Distributor
5. Year of release
6. “DVD” or “VHS” as the publication medium

Examples

The Persuaders. Dir. Barak Goodman and Rachel Dretzin. PBS Home Video, 2005.

Blow. Dir. Ted Demme. Perf. Johnny Depp and Penelope Cruz. Warner Home Video, 2001. DVD.

If a particular director or performer is the main reason you wish to cite this film, lead with that director or performer’s name, followed by the appropriate abbreviation:

Jackson, Peter, Dir. *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings*. New Line Home Entertainment, 2002. DVD.

Films Still in Theaters/Not Yet on DVD

1. Title (italicized)
2. Director (starting with “Dir.”)
3. If relevant, list key performers (starting with “Perf.”)
4. Film Studio or Distributor
5. Year of release
6. “Film” as the publication medium

(Basically, use the DVD examples above, but substitute “Film” for “DVD.” Internet Movie Database is a good place to look up any information you may be missing, such as the film studio/distributor.)

Image, Online



Image of Artwork Available in a Museum or Gallery

Write information for an online image in the following order:

1. Last Name of Artist, First Name
2. Title of art work (italicized)
3. Date of creation
4. The institution and city where the work is
5. Title of Website (italicized)
6. "Web" as the medium.
7. Date of access
8. <URL> (optional)

Da Vinci, Leonardo. *Mona Lisa: Portrait of Lisa Gherardini, wife of Francesco del Giocondo*. c. 1503-06. Louvre, Paris. *Louvre*. Web. 23 Mar. 2012.

Image of Artwork Only Available Online

1. Last Name of Artist, First Name
2. Title of art work (in quotes)
3. Medium of the art (Photograph, Sculpture, Painting, etc.)
4. Title of Website (italicized)
5. Date of Website (or "n.d." if no date is listed)
6. "Web" as the medium.
7. Date of access
8. <URL> (optional)

Cantley, Kenneth. "Barred Owl." Photograph. *Audubon*. 2012. Web. 23 Mar. 2012.

Image, Print

Write information for an online image in the following order:



1. Last Name of artist, First Name (if given) or responsible organization
2. Title of Artwork (in quotes)
3. Type of artwork (photograph, painting, drawing)
4. Title of book or article (italicized)
5. Name of author or editor of book or article – Example: By Anne Nicholson.
6. Place and Date of Publication
7. Page or Plate number(s)
8. “Print” as the publication medium.

Example

Bunk,Tomas. “Stop on Red, Go on Green.” Cartoon. *Quantoons: Metaphysical Illustrations*. Tomas Bunk. Arlington, VA: National Science Teachers Association, 2006. 59. Print.

In-Text Citations

When you paraphrase or quote a source:

- Cite only the last name of the author.
- Cite the page number(s) of the paraphrased or quoted information.
- Exceptions: don’t include the page number if:
 - the source is only a page long
 - the source is a website
 - the source is an article from an online database
 - you wish to cite the entire source
- Within a paragraph, the second (or third, etc.) time you site a source, list only the page number. No page number? Then you can write “(ibid.)”
- Use the present tense to explain what an author wrote (e.g., “Smith argues” not “Smith argued”).
- If your quote contains a quote, use single quotation marks (‘ ’) around the original quote.

One Author

Smith agrees with this assertion (33).

This point has been argued before (Smith 33).

Two or Three Authors (list all of the author names)

Others, like Warren and Jones (314-15), argue an opposite point of view.

Others argue an opposite point of view (e.g., Wellek and Warren 314-15).

Four or More Authors (list the first author, followed by “et al.”)



Martin et al. explain...(32).

...simply radiate outward (Martin et al. 32).

Same Author, Different Works

(Include the title or a shortened version of the title.)

In *Driven to Distraction*, Hallowell and Ratey explain . . . (24).

. . . may be one solution (Hallowell and Ratey *Answers to Distraction* 48).

Anonymous Author

(Just list the title or a shortened version of the title.)

Because Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) reveals differences in brain activity between dyslexics and non-dyslexics, it may someday be used to diagnose dyslexia ("Tracking Down").

The above sentence is a paraphrase of the *Newsweek* article, "Tracking Down the Roots of Dyslexia." The reason no page number is listed in the in-text citation is because the article is only one page long, and therefore there's no need to distinguish between page numbers.

If you cite from a multivolume work, include the volume number, followed by a colon, before the page numbers

Samuel Johnson declared the misuse of patriotism as "...the last refuge of a scoundrel." ("Patriotism," 3:132-133).

Article from an Online Database

The difference between citing an online database article and citing any other article is that you do not need to cite the page numbers. (Like with websites, the pagination may differ between printouts from different computers and different web browsers.)

Gagnon argues that the lack of a national educational standard is largely responsible for the poor performance of American students.

American schools need national educational standards in order to improve the quality of education they offer (Gagnon).

Website

The author is the person, organization, institution, or company that created or is represented by the website. Because websites will print out differently from different computers and web browsers, you do not need page numbers in your citations.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides the online “Fact Sheet: Nuclear Power Plant Emergency” to inform the public about nuclear power plant emergencies and how to respond to them.

In a nuclear power plant emergency, any school children with a 10-mile radius of a power plant would be evacuated before the general public (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Good news: after you’ve spelled out the lengthy name of an organization such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the next time you need to cite it, you can use their abbreviated name, such as in this case, “FEMA”.

Citing a Source Cited in Your Source (Indirect Sources)

You’re using Source A, which cites Source B, and you want to summarize, paraphrase, or quote Source B.

Here are your options:

1. Find Source B and cite it directly. (This is the safest, most respected option.)
 2. Mention the author of Source B in your text, and in the in-text citation, write “qtd. in” Source A. (This is the compromise when there’s no time or no way to get Source B.)
- Smith asserts that “responsible researchers make every attempt to use a source directly” (qtd. in Martin 26).

Quotations (how to punctuate)

When your quote is under 5 lines:

- Incorporate your quote into your text (do not make it into a new paragraph)
- If your quote contains a quote, use single quotes around the original quote.
- If the sentence containing your quote ends in quotation marks or an exclamation mark, place the period AFTER the reference number. If the sentence does not end in special punctuation, place the period BEFORE the reference number.

Quotation Example

- Many people find definitions of LD to be confusing. Balter admits that “there is no easy definition, free of jargon, that just ‘tells it like it is’” (41).

When your quote is longer than four lines:



- Start the quote on a new line.
- Indent the entire quote by one inch (or two tabs).
- Don't use quotation marks.
- Double-space the entire quote (just like the rest of the paper).
- If your quote contains a quote, use double quotation marks (“ ”) around the original quote.
- If the sentence containing your quote ends in quotation marks or an exclamation mark, place the period AFTER the reference number. If the sentence does not end in special punctuation, place the period BEFORE the reference number.

Example

In *Answers to Distraction*, Hallowell and Ratey explain that setting realistic obligations can help people with ADD focus on what they need to accomplish:

Choosing the right set of goals and then making them obligations is crucial. An obligation can mobilize “good guilt” that will help you make the goal that you set with your coach or team. This “good guilt” focuses you, and because it functions as a demand for action, it lets you escape from the trap of procrastination. (219)

