



MLA Citation FAQs

-- What do I do if . . . ?

all see references are to the Works Cited page following these FAQs

Setting up a Works Cited page (See sample page at the end of this guide):

The title of the page is: Works Cited. This is centered and in the same font and size as your paper's text.

Create a citation for each source referred to in your text using the MLA Format Guide.

All citations go in one alphabetical list alphabetized by the first word of the citation.

Entire page is evenly double spaced.

Each citation begins at the margin. All other lines that belong to that citation are indented 7 spaces.

Parenthetical citation or in text citation:

After a fact or idea from a source, add a reference to the citation for that source on your Works Cited page.

Format: (first word of citation page number if relevant) Ex: (Zeinert 234)

There are many variations according to the wording of your text. For details, see Werner, Jim. "In-line (Parenthetical) citation"

available online (from Library Home page click Citations—Citations—Inline (Parenthetical) Citation) , at the Library Reference desk and at the Writing Tutorial.

Access Information for Online source material:

Information accessed online must always have responsible party named, date of access and URL.

Responsible party=publisher, sponsoring agency or whoever stands behind the author or the information or the ideas presented.

For Subscription Article Databases (not original content), you need Data base name, Database vendor and URL (see URL list below).

Alphabetization problems:

"A", "an" and "the":

When alphabetizing by a title that begins with one of these words, use the second word as your guide. (Ex: "The Walt Disney Company" is alphabetized under "W")

Author problems:

In Works Cited citations:

No author given Begin with title (see "Nike"; see "Walt Disney")

One author—always reverse order, last name first (see Herndl)

2-3 authors: first author in reverse order, other authors in natural order (see La Frele)

4 or more authors: first author in reverse order, et al (see) (Jones, Bob, et al.)

Corporate or government agency author: begin citation with corporate name (see

In parenthetical documentation:

No author: begin parenthetical with shortened title: Ex: (Walt Disney)

One author: last name with page number if appropriate: Ex: (Morrison 14)

2-3 authors: list all last names: Ex: (Abbot, Costello and Marx 123)

4 or more authors: last name with et al: Ex: (Jones, et al 27)

Editors' names:

Follow authors' rules above when editors' names begin the citation.

Within a citation, editors' names are first name first. (Ex: Jones, John. "Citing." Research Report Formats. Ed. Jane Smith ...)

Page number problems:

Printouts:

- You are using a source that is a PDF or other exact image of an article originally published in print. Use that page number or number range in your citation or your parenthetical documentation.
- You have the page numbers of an article only from a citation in a results list. Use those numbers on your works cited page; use no page numbers in your parenthetical documentation.
- Your only page numbers refer to an HTML printout. Do not use numbers in either Works Cited or parenthetical documentation.

Journal page numbers follow the pattern below (place directly after underlined title):

Journal of Advertising 35.4 (2006): 65-86.

READ THIS: Journal of Advertising volume 35 number 4, published in 2006, pages 65 to 86

See "La Ferle" on Work Cited list

Magazine and Newspaper page numbers follow the pattern below (place without punctuation after underlined title):

Business Week 25 Sept. 2006: 128-30+.

READ THIS: Business Week published Sep. 25, 2006 on pages 128 to 30 with continuation pages

See "Scott" on Works cited list

Reference books (such as encyclopedias): When articles are arranged alphabetically, page numbers should not be included in Works Cited citations. Page number is still relevant in parenthetical documentation.

Volume numbers:

Journal volume numbers follow this pattern (place without punctuation after underlined title)

35.4 (2006): 65-86. READ THIS: volume 35 number 4, published in 2006, pages 65 to 86

See "La Ferle" on Work Cited list

Book (usually Reference) published in more than one volume follow this pattern:

... Title of set. Ed. Editor's name. # of edition. # of vols. Place: Publisher, date. Page-page.

Edition numbers:

Immediately following Editor's name (see "Volume numbers" above)

Missing information problems:

No author given: Begin with title (see "Nike"; see "The Walt Disney").

Page numbers: see "Page Number Problems" above.

Web page problems:

A complete citation should include

Author. "Title of section." Title of site. Sponsoring agency. Date of creation or latest update.

Date of access <URL>.

If author is the same as sponsoring agency, list name in two places in Works Cited citation.

If author is not given, begin with title.

If there is no way to determine the party responsible for the production of the information, do not use the site as a source for research.

An article **republished** on a site should be cited as it was originally published with access information added (see: "Access Information" above). There may be many levels of publishing responsibility (Ex: original publication, republished in reference book, reference book mounted online). Your Works Cited citation should reveal all levels.

Anthologies:

If section was originally published as a book, the title of section is underlined. Smaller section titles are in quotation marks.

For example, if The Red Badge of Courage were in an anthology, its title would be underlined in the citation, as would the title of the anthology.

Questions not answered in this guide? Ask a Librarian or see (available in library):

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers . 6th ed. NY: Modern Language

Works Cited

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