

MLA—Guide to Citation Format

Below are the most common citation formats and FAQs. Questions not answered in this guide? Ask a Librarian or see (available at the Reference Desk in the library):

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.

Magazine article (Electronic) Citation Format:

Author last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine* Day Month Year of publication: page(s). *Name of Database*. Medium. Day Month year of access.

Example:

Huber, Peter. "March of the Skypetube." *Forbes* 8 June 2009: 82. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 9 June 2009.

In Text (Parenthetical) Citation for electronic magazine: (Huber 82)

Magazine article (Print) Citation Format:

Author last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine* Day Month Year of publication: page(s). Medium.

Example:

Huber, Peter. "March of the Skypetube." *Forbes* 8 June 2009: 82. Print.

In Text (Parenthetical) Citation for print magazine: (Huber 82)

Newspaper article (Electronic) Citation Format:

Author last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* Day Month Year of publication, edition:

Page Number (+ indicates continued on a non-continuous page). *Name of Database*. Medium.

Day Month Year of access.

Example:

Rimer, Sara. "College Panel Urges Shift Away from SAT's." *New York Times* 22 Sept. 2006, late ed.: A14.

Custom Newspapers. Web. 4 April 2009.

In Text (Parenthetical) Citation for electronic newspaper: (Rimer A14)

Newspaper article (Print) Citation Format:

Author last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* Day Month Year, edition:

Page Number (+ indicates continued on a non-continuous page). Medium.

Example (with 3 authors):

Cox, Rob, Anthony Currie, and John Foley. "Bragging Rights for Ford Motor." *New York Times* 1 June 2009,

late ed.: B2. Print.

In Text (Parenthetical) Citation for print newspaper article: (Cox, Currie, and Foley B2)

Journal article (Electronic)

Citation Format:

Author last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*. Volume number.Issue number. (Year of Publication): Page number(s). *Title of Database*. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Example (with 2 authors):

Singleton, Royce A., Jr., and Amy R. Wolfson. "Alcohol Consumption, Sleep, and Academic Performance Among College Students." *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 70.3 (2009): 355-63. *Platinum Periodicals*. Web. 8 June 2009.

In Text (Parenthetical) Citation for HTML electronic journal: (Singleton and Wolfson)

Journal Article (Print)

Citation Format:

Author last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*. Volume number.Issue number (Year of Publication): Page number(s). Medium.

Example (with 2 authors):

Singleton, Royce A., Jr., and Amy R. Wolfson. "Alcohol Consumption, Sleep, and Academic Performance Among College Students." *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 70.3 (2009): 355-63. Print.

In Text (Parenthetical) Citation for print journal: (Singleton and Wolfson 361)

Web Page

Citation Format:

Author last name, First name [if any](or organization or agency). "Title of Web Page." *Title of Entire Web Site*. Publisher or copyright holder, Date of page OR last update. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Example:

Brichford, Connie. "Choosing Protein Wisely." *Everyday Health*. Waterfront Media, 2009. Web. 10 June 2009.

In Text (Parenthetical) Citation for website: (Brichford)

Article or Chapter in an Electronic Book (Includes Literature Resource Center, MagillOnLiterature Plus, Opposing Viewpoints, Gale Virtual Reference Library, Credo Reference, NetLibrary)

Citation Format:

Author last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Source*. Editor(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. *Name of Database*. Medium. Day Month Year of Access.

Example:

Garcia, Maria Cristina. "Hispanics in the United States." *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*. Eds. Jay Kinsbruner and Erick D. Langer. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Son, 2008. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 18 May 2009.

In Text (Parenthetical) Citation for in an electronic book: (Garcia 697)

Article or Chapter in a Book, Print (hard copy)-Anthologies, Textbooks, etc. Citation Format:

Author last name, First name. "Article title." *Title of Source*. Editor(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year of publication. Pages. Medium.

Example:

Reeves, Linda, and Celita DeArmond. "If Online Education Is a Shifting Playing Field, What Position Should Community College Librarians Play?" *It's All About Student Learning*. Eds. David R. Dowell and Gerard B. McCabe. Westport: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 77-87. Print.

In Text Citation for article or chapter in print book: (Reeves and DeArmond 81)

Electronic Book (if you used the whole book in your research) Citation Format:

Author last name, First. *Title: Subtitle*. City: Publisher, Date. *Name of database*. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Example:

Evans, Kimberly Masters. *Capital Punishment: Cruel and Unusual?* Detroit: Gale, 2008. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 19 May 2009.

In Text Citation for electronic book: (Evans 123)

Book, Print (if you used the whole book in your research)

Author last name, First name. *Title: Subtitle*. City of publication: Publisher, Date. Medium.

Example:

Carson, Iain, and Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran. *Zoom: The Global Race to Fuel the Car of the Future*. New York: Twelve, 2007. Print.

In Text Citation for book: (Carson and Vaitheeswaran 234)

Interviews Citation Format:

Last name of person interviewed, First. Medium or type of interview. Day Month Year of interview.

Example:

Smith, John. Personal [or Telephone, etc.] interview. 12 Oct. 2009.

In Text Citation for an interview conducted by you: no parenthetical, use interviewee name in text of paper.

For published or broadcast interviews see:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. 201-202. Print.

Film, DVD, Slide Program, Videocassette, Laser disc. Citation Format:

Title. Names of contributors to content and production preceded by descriptive abbreviations. (director, performers, producers, writers, etc.) in this format: Dir. Frank Capra, Perf. James Stewart. Date of original release. Name of the distributor, Date of distribution. Format (ex: Film, DVD, Slide program, Videocassette).

Example:

If you wish to highlight a creative contributor because of the content of your paper, list them at the beginning of the citation. Here is one sample citation (taken from MLA 7th ed.) for a Laser disc in a paper on Jean Renoir:

Renoir, Jean, dir. *Grand Illusion* [*La grande illusion*]. Perf. Jean Gabin and Erich von Stroheim. 1938. Voyager, 1987. Laser disc.

In Text Citation for media: (Renoir)

For Radio, TV, CD, LP, Performance, Musical Score, Libretto, Work of Visual Art, Map or Chart, Cartoon or Comic Strip, Advertisement, Lecture, Speech, Address or Reading, Letter, Memo, Email Message see:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. NY: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. 193-205. Print.

Works Cited

- Carson, Iain, and Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran. *Zoom: The Global Race to Fuel the Car of the Future*. New York: Twelve, 2007. Print.
- Evans, Kimberly Masters. *Capital Punishment: Cruel and Unusual?* Detroit:Gale, 2008. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 19 May 2009.
- Reeves, Linda, and Celita DeArmond. "If Online Education Is a Shifting Playing Field, What Position Should Community College Librarians Play?" *It's All About Student Learning*. Eds. David R. Dowell and Gerard B. McCabe. Westport: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. Print.
- Rimer, Sara. "College Panel Urges Shift Away from SAT's." *New York Times* 22 Sept 2006: A14(L). *Custom Newspapers*. Web. 4 April 2009.

MLA Citation FAQs

Setting up a Works Cited page (See sample at bottom of previous page):

The title of the page is: Works Cited. Title 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--Guide to Citation Format."

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 1 inch.

Parenthetical citation or in text citation:

After a quote, 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.

Alphabetization questions:

If the title begins with "a", "an" and "the": Alphabetize by the second word.

Author Questions:

For Works Cited citations:

No author-- Begin with title

Only one author—always reverse order, last name first

2-3 authors—first author in reverse order, all others Firstname Initial Lastname, Firstname Initial Lastname and Firstname Initial Lastname

4 or more authors—first author in reverse order, followed by <et al> Ex: Smith, John, et al.

Corporate or government agency author—begin citation with corporate name

For In-text or parenthetical documentation:

No author-- begin parenthetical with shortened title: Ex: for article "Walt Disney Posts Growth," in-text is (Walt Disney)

One author-- last name with page number: Ex: (Morrison 14) If page number is not available, last name only Ex: (Marx)

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

4 or more authors-- last name of first author with <et al> and appropriate page number: Ex: (Jones, et al 27)

Editors' names: If editors' name begins citation, follow authors' rules above. Within a citation, put editors' first name first.

Page number questions:

- Journal page numbers follow the pattern below (place directly after underlined title):
Journal of Advertising 35.4 (2006): 65-86. Article is on pages 65-68
- Magazine and Newspaper page numbers follow the pattern below (place without punctuation after underlined title):
Business Week 25 Sept. 2006: 128-30+. Article is on pages 128-130 and some additional pages.
- Reference books: Page number is needed in Works Cited entry and in parenthetical documentation.
- Page numbers are on PDF or other exact image of an article originally published in print. Use page number(s) in your citation and your parenthetical documentation if you have a PDF.
- Page numbers of an article are on only your citation in a results list. Use page numbers on your works cited page only.
- Page numbers are on only your HTML printout. Do not use numbers in either Works Cited or 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

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

... *Title of set*. Ed. Editors' name. # of edition. # of vols. Place: Publisher, Date. Page-page.

Edition numbers:

Immediately following Editors' name (see "Volume numbers" above)

Republished material including articles from magazine/journal/newspaper websites:

Any material that is included from another source where it was published before should be cited as it was originally published followed by <Name of source you viewed. Medium. Day Month Year of access.>