



MLA STYLE

HOW TO USE

Citing Sources in the Text of Your Paper

Source with Page Numbers:

When you paraphrase or quote from a source with page numbers, MLA style requires the use of in-text parenthetical citations. These parenthetical citations lead readers to the alphabetical list of works cited at the end of your paper where you provide complete bibliographic information. In the text of your paper, include the author's last name and the page number(s) on which the information appears. Enclose the author's name and page number(s) within parentheses. If you use the author's name as part of the text of your sentence, include the page number(s) at the end of the borrowed material. Periods or commas should follow the parenthetical information.

HINT: If you have a choice between the PDF version of an article and an HTML version, choose the PDF. It makes citing much easier.

According to Messner, "Social structures simultaneously constrain and enable, while agency is simultaneously reproductive and resistant" (782).

"Social structures simultaneously constrain and enable, while agency is simultaneously reproductive and resistant" (Messner 782).

Source without Page Numbers:

When you paraphrase or quote from a source without page numbers (e.g. a web page), MLA requires that you use the name of the person or entity who created the work (e.g., author, company, performer, director) in the text of your sentence that leads the reader to the appropriate works-cited entry.

HINT: To make it easier for your reader to find the information in the source, give clues about the location of the information.

The Campbell Soup Company claims at the bottom of its home page that "There is currently no evidence of transmission of salmonella through consumption of processed foods containing tomatoes and jalapeños because normal cooking temperatures, such as those used in preparing Campbell products, will inactivate the bacteria."

Works Cited

- Provide complete bibliographic information in correct MLA form for all sources from which you borrow material. You don't need to supply citations for sources that you consulted but did not incorporate into your paper.
- Start your works cited list on a new page, and number it as though it were a page in your paper.
- Arrange entries alphabetically by the authors' last names. If no author is provided for any source, use the title to alphabetize.
- After the first line of an entry, indent subsequent lines five spaces so that the first word of the entry stands out. This is called hanging indentation. To do this correctly, use the hanging indent option in Microsoft Word; follow the path: Paragraph > Indentation > Special (set to .5).
- Double space within and between entries. Be careful that you do not use more than one blank line between entries.
- Leave only one space after periods. You no longer need to leave two spaces after end punctuation, like a period, exclamation mark, or question mark. As usual, leave only one space after a comma.
- Provide information about the medium (or format) for all sources you cite, including print publications. Sample mediums include Print, Web, CD, or DVD.

Books, Reference Books, Government Publications (Print)

Basic format: Author's name. *Title of Book*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year. Print.

Books:

Bonvillain, Nancy. *Women and Men: Cultural Constructs of Gender*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. Print.
McIntyre, Kellen Kee, and Richard E. Phillips. *Woman and Art in Early Modern Latin America*. Leiden: Brill, 2007. Print.

HINTS:

- Take the title, author(s), and publisher's name directly from the title page.
- Abbreviate the names of well-known publishers by omitting words like *Press, Inc., or Co.*
- Abbreviate University Press as UP with no periods.
- Include only the city, not the state or country for the place of publication. If several cities are listed on the title page, list only the first city.

Reference Books (Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, etc.):

- List the author of the article first, if one exists. If there is no author, begin with the title of the article. The editors or compilers come after the title of the book when there is an author.

Ullrich, Heidi. "Consumer Movement." *Encyclopedia of Globalization*. Ed. Roland Robertson and Jan Aart Scholte. New York: Routledge, 2007. Print.

- For familiar reference books with numerous editions, do not use the full publication data.
"Panama." *Europa World Year Book*. 49th ed. 2008. Print.

Government Publications:

Basic Format: Government. Agency. *Title of Publication*. Place: Publisher, Year. Print.

United States. National Intelligence Council. *Mapping the Global Future: Report of the National Intelligence Council's 2020 Project, Based on Consultations with Nongovernmental Experts around the World*. Washington: GPO, 2004. Print.

HINT:

- Abbreviate Government Printing Office to GPO.

Articles in Scholarly Journals, Magazines, Newspapers (Print)

Scholarly Journals

MLA does not distinguish between journals paginated separately or continuously. You should include the volume and, when available, issue numbers for all journals.

Basic Format: Author. "Title of Article." *Name of Periodical* Volume.Issue (Year): Page(s). Print.

Demont-Heinrich, Christof. "Globalization, Language, and the Tongue-Tied American." *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 31.2 (2007): 98-117. Print.

Gutstein, Eric. "Multiple Language Use and Mathematics: Politicizing the Discussion." *Educational Studies in Mathematics* 64.3 (2007): 243-46. Print.

Magazines:

Basic format: Author. "Title of Article." *Name of Periodical* Date: Page(s). Print.

LeVine, Steve. "Pipeline Wars." *Business Week* 25 Aug. 2008: 15-19. Print.

HINTS:

- Use month and year for monthly magazines. Use day, month, and year (22 Dec. 2007) for weekly or bi-weekly magazines and daily newspapers.
- Abbreviate months, except May, June, and July.

Newspapers:

Basic format: Author. "Title of Article." *Name of Newspaper* Date: Page(s). Print.

Ryzik, Melena. "The Anti-Restaurants." *New York Times* 27 Aug. 2008, natl. ed.: D1+. Print.

HINTS:

- Use the name from the masthead, omitting articles (e.g. *Toledo Blade*, not *The Toledo Blade*).
- If known, specify the edition of the newspaper (e.g. natl. ed., late ed.). Separate the date and edition with a comma.

Online Publications

While you are not required to provide URLs for materials you access on the web, you may include a URL if you think your reader will need it to find the item or if your instructor requires you to use it.

The types of publications accessed via the Internet vary so greatly that it is impossible to give one format to follow. See the examples that follow for the most common types of sources. Keep in mind that (1) your goal is to lead the reader back to your source, and (2) references to electronic publications generally provide more information than references to print resources.

Article from a Library Research Database:

If you are citing an article you found in a library research database, your entry should include all of the elements required for a print articles plus the name of the database (*italicized*), the medium of the publication (*Web*), and date of access (day, month, and year).

Messner, Michael. "Barbie Girls versus Sea Monsters: Children Constructing Gender." *Gender and Society* 14.6 (2000): 765-84. *JSTOR*. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

Nixon, Robin. "Global Gender Bender." *Psychology Today* May-June 2008: 35. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

E-Books from the Libraries:

If you are citing an e-book from a library resource (e.g., *NetLibrary*, *ebrary*, *Safari Tech Books Online*), your entry should include all of the elements required for a book in print plus the name of the database (*italicized*), the medium of the publication (*Web*), and date of access (day, month, and year).

Bhagwati, Jagdish N. *In Defense of Globalization*. Auckland: Oxford UP, 2004. *ebrary*. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

Article from a Journal Published Only on the Web

If you are citing an article you found in a journal available only online, your entry should include all of the elements required for a print article (see p. 2 of this handout). However, if the journal does not use page numbers, use n. pag. in place of the inclusive page numbers. You also need to add the medium of the publication (*Web*), and date of access (day, month, and year) to the citation.

Mansour, Wisam. "Humor, Literary Theory and Terror." *Nebula* 4.4 (2007): 146-50. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

Schmidt, Gert. "Globalization and Asian Fordisms." *Globality Studies Journal* 11 (2008): n. pag. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

Web Sites

If you are citing a source you found on the web, you should include as many of these elements as possible. (In many cases, not all of this will be available).

1. Name of the author(s).
2. Title of the work (italicized if the work is independent or in quotation marks if it is part of a larger web site).
3. Title of the overall web site if it is distinct from #2 (italicized).
4. Version or edition used if available
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site. Use *n.p.* if no publisher or sponsor is available.
6. Date of publication (day, month, year, as available). Use *n.d.* if no date is available.
7. Medium of publication (Web).
8. Date of access (day, month, year).

Use a period after each item except the publisher or sponsor, which is followed by a comma. An untitled work may be identified by a genre label (e.g. *Home page*, *Introduction*, *Online posting*). Put the genre label in place of the title of the work. Do not enclose it in quotes or use italics.

Kamiya, Gary. "The Eternal Flame." *Salon.com*. Salon, 25 Aug. 2008. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

"The Thomas Jefferson Papers." *American Memory Project*. Library of Congress, n.d. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

United States. US Census Bureau. "Economic Census." *American Factfinder*. US Census Bureau, 11 May 2005. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

HINT:

If you decide to include a URL for the web site, put it in brackets at the end of your citation. A period should follow the final bracket.

Example without a URL:

Campbell Soup Company. "Our Brands." Campbell Soup Company, 2008. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.

Example with a URL:

Campbell Soup Company. "Our Brands." Campbell Soup Company, 2008. Web. 29 Aug. 2008.
<<http://www.campbellsoup.com/ourbrands.aspx>>.

Need examples of citations for other sources not included in this handout? Consult the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (available at the Main Reference Desk or Reference stacks, ref PN147.G444 2008). Also available at the Main Reference Desk or Reference stacks is the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, ref LB2369.G53 2009.

Works Cited

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

Modern Language Association. *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*. 3rd ed. New York: MLA, 2008. Print.