

MLA CITATION GUIDE

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th edition. Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Web. 7 Sept. 2011.

The Purdue OWL. Purdue U Writing Lab, 2011 Web. 7 Sept. 2011.

Information Sharing Today:

The use of the Internet has created a culture of quick and easy sharing, modifying, and transmitting of information. Often, we expect information found on the Internet to be free; however, we must remember that content is created by an individual (or company, group, etc.) who holds the rights to that content. When we use another person's work, whether for personal or academic use, we must acknowledge the author and source of that work or idea. Not only should direct quotations and paraphrases be cited, but also information and ideas.

The purpose of citing your sources:

- 1) To identify other people's ideas and information used within your paper
- 2) To avoid plagiarism, the act of using another person's ideas, information or expressions without acknowledging that person's work

MLA Format

The MLA format is only one of many methods used for the documentation and citation of sources. Other formats include the APA (American Psychological Association) format, and Chicago Manual of Style.

When you do not need to Cite

When information or ideas are broadly known by your audience or widely accepted by scholars (i.e. the date of an historical event). Included in this category are proverbs, sayings and clichés.

You have plagiarized if...

- You took notes that did not distinguish summary and paraphrase from quotation and then you presented wording from the notes as if it were your own.
- While browsing the web, you copied text and pasted it into your paper without quotation marks or without citing the source.
- You bought or otherwise acquired a research paper and handed in part or all of it as your own.

Important rules to remember before you start

1. Always follow your teacher's specific rules for citation and *then* follow MLA rules.
2. Do not divide words at the end of lines (automatic hyphenation).
3. If you quote material in a foreign language, you must reproduce all original accents.

Paper Format

- Use standard white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Double-space the entire text of your paper, including quotations and your Works Cited page.
- Use a legible font (e.g. Times New Roman) and 12 pt. size.
- Set the margins to 1 inch on all sides.
- Indent the first line of the paragraph ½ inch from the left margin (use the tab key).
- Leave only one space after periods or other concluding punctuation marks (unless instructed otherwise by your teacher).
- Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, ½ inch from the top and flush with the right margin. Include your last name with the page number. Only number the first page if your teacher requests that you do.
- Do not make a title page for your paper unless your teacher requests that you do.

Your first page should look like this (be sure to double-space everything):

Last name 1
Your Name
Instructor's name
Course Name
Date
Title
First paragraph sentence.
.....

Parenthetical Citations (In-text Citations)

Insert a parenthetical citation (also known as an in-text citation) into your paper wherever you incorporate another's words, facts or ideas, whether you are directly quoting or summarizing and paraphrasing.

Whatever the source (electronic, print, etc.), remember to always match the first part of the parenthetical citation with the first part of the citation in the Works Cited entry (e.g. author name, article name, website name, etc.).

Citing a Direct Quotation:

Medieval Europe was a place both of “raids, pillages, slavery and extortion” and of “traveling merchants, monetary exchanges , towns if not cities, and active markets in grain” (Townsend 10).

Summary/Paraphrase:

Rochester behaves much like the aristocracy of the time (Townsend 10).

The reader will then know to look in your Works Cited and see this corresponding citation:

Townsend, Robert M. *The Medieval Village Economy*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993. Print.

- If your Works Cited list contains more than one author with the same last name, you must add the first initial to the parenthetical citation: (A. Patterson 183-85) (L. Patterson 230)
- If the work has more than 3 authors, give all names or give the first author’s last name followed by “et al”: (Lauter et al. 2601-09)
- For sources that use page numbering, give the relevant page numbers in the parenthetical citation. If you cite from more than one volume of a multivolume work, provide the volume and page numbers:

Tannen has argued this point (178-85).

Only Roberts has seen this relation (2: 776-777).

- For a quotation that is four or more lines of verse or prose, set it off by beginning a new line, indenting one inch from the left margin and typing it double-spaced without adding quotation marks. Your parenthetical citation should come *after* the closing punctuation marks:

In the novel, Bertha is known as Antoinette; Staley writes that Rhys attempts to create Antoinette’s history:

The first section [of the novel] provides a psycho-historical background for Antoinette’s life. The setting is the West Indies after emancipation of the slaves, a time bristling with resentment,

hatred, and vindictiveness. Rhys concentrates on the psychological and personal traumas which larger historical events produced upon the individual. (198)

- If you add a word or words in a quotation, you should put brackets around the words to indicate that they are not a part of the original text:

Joseph Michaels, in an essay on the stress and the brain, states: “some individuals [who experience severe stress] make a point of visiting a doctor whenever stressful conditions arise” (78).

Works Cited Page: General Format

- Found at the end of the paper, on a separate page, double-spaced with same 1-inch margins on all sides
- Center the words “Works Cited” (without quotation marks) an inch from the top of the page
- Continue page numbering format from the paper
- Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations five spaces so that you create a hanging indent
- Only those sources you have cited within your paper should be included as entries in Works Cited
- Arrange entries alphabetically by author’s last name
- Begin each entry flush with the left margin; subsequent lines should be ½ inch from left margin
- If you use two or more works by the same author, give the name of the author in the first entry only. Thereafter, in place of the name, type 3 hyphens, followed by a period and the title:

Works Cited

Andrews, Jayne. *Language and the Poet: Verbal Artistry in Frost, Stevens, and Moore*. Chicago: U

of Chicago P, 1979. Print.

---. “Sound Symbolism as Drama in the Poetry of Robert Frost.” *PMLA* 107.1 (1992): 131-44.

JSTOR. Web. 13 May 2008.

Formatting Sources in Works Cited

General Rules:

1. Italicize the names of books, plays, journals, websites, online databases, films, TV and radio broadcasts, compact discs, audiocassettes, record albums, dance performances, works of visual art, ships, aircraft, and spacecraft
2. Use quotation marks for titles of articles, essays, stories, poems published within longer works, chapters of books, pages in web sites, and unpublished lectures and speeches.
3. Abbreviate all months except May, June and July.
4. For every entry, you must determine the Medium of Publication. Most entries will likely be listed as Print or Web sources, but other possibilities may include Film, CD-ROM, or DVD.
5. You no longer *have* to provide a URL for a web entry. However, your teacher may still ask that you do. If you do, include it at the end of the citation in angle brackets before and after the URL. End the URL with a period.

BOOKS

- Name of author or authors
- Title of book (italicized)
- Place of Publication, Publisher, and year of publication
- Medium of publication

A. Single author

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

Franke, Damon. *Modernist Heresies*. Columbus: Ohio State UP, 2008. Print.

Rowling, J[oanne] K[athleen]. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. New York: Levine-Scholastic, 2000. Print.

B. Anthology or compilation

Davis, Anita Price, comp. *North Carolina Tarheels*. Jefferson: McFarland, 2003. Print.

Weisser, Susan Ostrov, ed. *Women and Romance*. New York: New York UP, 2001. Print.

C. Book by two or more authors

You may choose to list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. or you may list all the authors in the order in which their names appear on the title page.

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 2nd ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. Print.

Booth, Wayne C., et al. *The Craft of Research*. 2nd ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. Print.

A. Anonymous book

The Holy Bible. Wheaton: Crossway-Good News, 2003. Print. Eng. Standard Vers.

Encyclopedia of Indiana. New York: Somerset, 1993. Print.

B. Book by a corporate author or organization

National Research Council. *Beyond Six Billion*. Washington: Natl. Acad., 2000. Print.

C. Reference source (No author named at the beginning or end of the article, no editor, no volume number)

"Ginsburg, Ruth Bader." *Who's Who in America*. 62nd ed. 2008. Print.

D. An edition of a book (reference or not)

Crowley, Sharon and Debra Hawhee. *Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students*. 3rd ed. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2004. Print.

E. A Work prepared by an editor (reference or not)

Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility*. Ed. Claudia Johnson. New York: Norton, 2001. Print.

J. Article from a multi-volume source (reference or not)

James, Peter. "The Truth Behind Green Energy." *The Guide to Energy Alternatives*. Ed. Paul Michael et al. 2nd ed. Vol. 2. Boston: Houghton, 2009. 130-34. Print.

F. Multivolume work (reference or not)

If using two or more volumes, cite total number of volumes in the work:

Blanco, Richard L., ed. *The American Revolution, 1775-1783: An Encyclopedia*. 2 vols. Hamden: Garland, 1993. Print.

If using only one volume:

Lawrence, D.H. *The Letters of D.H. Lawrence*. Ed. James T. Boulton. Vol. 8. New York: Cambridge UP, 2000. Print.

K. A poem from a collection of poetry

Burns, Robert. "Red, Red Rose." *100 Best-Loved Poems*. Ed. Philip Smith. New York: Dover, 1995. 26. Print.

L. A short story from a book of short stories

Kincaid, Jamaica. "Girl." *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories*. Ed. Tobias Wolff. New York: Vintage, 1994. 306-307. Print.

M. A book in a series

Anderson, Danny, and Jill S. Kuhnheim, eds. *Cultural Studies in the Curriculum*. New York: MLA, 2003. Print. Teaching Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

PERIODICAL PRINT PUBLICATIONS (published regularly at a fixed interval)

- Author's name
- Title of article (in quotation marks)
- Name of periodical (italicized)
- Series number or name
- Volume number
- Issue number (if available, for a scholarly journal)
- Date of publication (day, month, and year as available)
- Inclusive page numbers
- Medium (print.)

A. Newspaper article

If the newspaper is a less well-known or local publication, include the city name and state in brackets after the title of the newspaper.

Alaton, Salem. "Stocks Feel the Dollar's Weight." *Wall Street Journal* 4 Dec. 2006: C1. Print.

Behre, Robert. "Presidential Hopefuls Get Final Crack at Core of S.C. Democrats." *Post and Courier* [Charleston, SC] 29 Apr. 2007: A11. Print.

B. Magazine article

McEvoy, Dermot. "Little Books, Big Success." *Time* 30 Oct. 2006: 26-28. Print.

C. Scholarly journal article

Piper, Andrew. "Rethinking the Print Object." *Arizona Quarterly* 50.3 (2006): 124-38. Print.

D. Review

Bordewich, Fergus. Rev. of *Once They Moved Like the Wind*, by David Roberts. *Smithsonian* Mar. 1994: 125-31. Print.

Seitz, Matt Zoller. "Life in the Sprawling Suburbs, If You Can Really Call It Living." Rev. of *Radiant City*, dir. Gary Burns and Jim Brown. *New York Times* 30 May 2007 late ed.: E1. Print.

E. Anonymous article

"Where Angels No Longer Fear to Tread." *Economist* 22 Mar. 2008: 89. Print.

F. Editorial (signed)

Gergen, David. "A Question of Values." Editorial. *US News and World Report* 11 Feb. 2002: A14. Print.

G. Editorial (unsigned)

"A Question of Values." Editorial. *US News and World Report* 11 Feb. 2002: 72. Print.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

- Name of author, compiler, editor, etc.
- Title of the work (italicized if independent work, quotation marks if part of larger work)
- Title of overall website
- Version or edition used (including revision dates or posting dates)
- Publisher/sponsor of site. If not available, use n.p.
- Date of publication. If not available, use n.d.
- Page number. If not available, use n.pag.
- Medium (Web.)
- Date of access
- URL optional <http://www....>

A. An entire website (non-periodical, found only on the web)

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003. Web. 10 May 2006.

“Verb Tenses.” Chart. *The OWL at Purdue*. Purdue U Online Writing Lab, 2001. Web. 15 May 2008.

Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. *The William Blake Archive*. Lib. of Cong., 28 ept. 2007. Web. 20 Nov. 2007. <<http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/>>.

Felluga, Dino. *Survey of the Literature of England*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003. Web. 31 May 2007.

B. A page on a website

“How to Make Vegetarian Chili.” *eHow.com*. eHow, n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2009.

C. An image (photograph, painting, sculpture)

Artist’s last name, first name. *Work of art*. Date of creation. Institution and city where the work is housed. *Website name*. Medium of publication. Date of access.

Goya, Francisco. *The Family of Charles IV*. 1800. Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid. *Museo Nacional del Prado*. Web. 22 May 2006.

D. An article in a web magazine

Berstein, Mark. “10 Tips on Writing the Living Web.” *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*. A List Apart Mag., 16 Aug. 2002. Web. 4 May 2009.

E. Non-periodical work on the web which also appeared in print (i.e. a book scanned for access in a database)

Whittier, John G. "A Prayer." *The Freedman's Book*. Ed. L. Maria Child. Boston, 1866. 178. *Google Book Search*. Web. 15 May 2008.

F. Scholarly journal article online

MLA requires a page range for articles that appear in Scholarly Journals. Be sure to use the abbreviation *n. pag.* to denote that there is no pagination (or page numbers) for the publication.

Piper, Andrew. "Rethinking the Print Object." *PMLA* 121.1 (2006): 124-38. Web. 21 June 2009.

Shehan, Constance L., and Amanda B. Moras. "Deconstructing Laundry: Gendered Technologies and the Reluctant Redesign of Household Labor." *Michigan Family Review* 11 (2006): n. pag. Web. 8 Nov 2007.

G. Publication (article) in an online database

Richardson, Lynda. "Making Books Available: The Role of Early Libraries, Librarians, and Booksellers in the Promotion of African American Children's Literature." *African American Review* 32. 1 (1998): 9-16. *JSTOR*. Web. 5 June 2008.

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal* 50.1 (2007): 173-96. *ProQuest*. Web. 27 May 2009.

"Excerpts From High Court's Decision Barring Prosecution in Flag Protest." *New York Times* 22 June 1989. *Global Issues In Context*. Web. 5 Mar. 2010.

Guinier, Lani. "Foreword: demosprudence through dissent." *Harvard Law Review* 122.1 (2008): 4+. *Expanded Academic ASAP*. Web. 5 Mar. 2010.

Supreme Court Decision from FindLaw

Brown v. Board of Education. 347 US 483-96. Supreme Court of the US. 1954. *FindLaw*. Thomson Reuters. n.d. Web. 5 Mar. 2010.

TV PROGRAM/RADIO BROADCAST

- Title of episode or segment in quotation marks
- Title of program or series (italicized)
- Name of the network (if any)
- Call letters and city of the local station (if any)
- Broadcast date
- Publication medium (radio, television)

Radio broadcast

“Death and Society.” Narr. Joanne Silberrier. *Weekend Edition Sunday*. Natl. Public Radio. WUWM, Milwaukee, 25 Jan. 1998. Radio.

TV program

“Frederick Douglass.” *Civil War Journal*. Narr. Danny Glover. Dir. Craig Haffner. Arts and Entertainment Network. 6 Apr. 1993. Television.

Transcript of radio/TV broadcast

Fresh Air. Narr. Terry Gross. Natl. Public Radio. WHYY, n.p., 20 May 2008. Print. Transcript.

SOUND RECORDING

- Title of recording
- Artist/artists, with appropriate abbreviation after the person’s name
- Manufacturer (i.e. Capitol)
- Year of issue (n.d. if no date)
- Indicate Medium (C.D., LP, Audio cassette)

Sound recording commercially available

Ellington, Duke, cond. *First Carnegie Hall Concert*. Duke Ellington Orch. Rec. 23 Jan. 1943. Prestige, 1977. LP.

Holiday, Billie. *The Essence of Billie Holiday*. Columbia, 1991. CD.

Citing a specific song

Holiday, Billie. “God Bless the Child.” Rec. 9 May 1941. *The Essence of Billie Holiday*. Columbia, 1991. CD.

FILM/VIDEO RECORDING

- Title, italicized
- Director
- Performer names (if relevant) with the abbreviation Perf. before the names.
- Distributor/Film Studio
- Year of release
- Medium consulted: DVD, Film, etc.

Examples:

It’s a Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946. Film.

It’s a Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. 1946. Republic, 2001. DVD.

Like Water for Chocolate [Como agua para chocolate]. Screenplay by Laura Esquivel. Dir. Alfonso Arau.

Perf. Lumi Cavazos, Marco Lombardi, and Regina Torne. Miramax, 1993. Film.
Looking at Our Earth: A Visual Dictionary. Natl. Geographic Educ. Services, 1992. Sound filmstrip.

DIGITAL FILES (PDFs, MP3s, JPEGs)

Beethoven, Ludwig van. *Moonlight Sonata*. Crownstar, 2006. MP3.

Bentley, Phyllis. "Yorkshire and the Novelist." *The Kenyon Review* 30.4 (1968): 509-22. *JSTOR*. PDF file.

For further citation rules and guidelines, visit <http://MLAHandbook.org> or <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.