



MLA Citation Guide

What is MLA format?

The Modern Language Association (MLA) has developed standards for paper preparation. These standards include rules for how your research paper should look and how your works cited should appear within the text and at the end of the paper.

What is a Citation (or a list of works cited)?

When you write a research paper you must make a citation for everything in your paper that is not your own original idea. When you do this in the body of your paper, this is often called a parenthetical or in text citation. You should also include a list of **works cited** at the end of the paper. This list will appear in alphabetical order and include the information required to access everything you consulted when writing your paper (e.g. articles, books, websites, etc.).

What is in this guide?

This guide shows basic MLA format and sample citations for the following types of media: **Electronic, Print** and **Audiovisual Resources**. Carefully observe the punctuation and capitalization in each sample. Also notice you should *not* indent the first line of a citation, but *should* indent the second line and each succeeding line by five spaces. Except for web pages & web sites, we do not recommend including a URL in your citation. Instead, include the location where you accessed the material and the last date of access.

What is not in this guide?

This guide demonstrates how to prepare citations for the types of sources most commonly consulted. If you need to cite a source for which there is no example in this guide, or if you want to learn how to prepare parenthetical citations (these appear within the text of your research paper), consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* located in the Library reference collection at LB2369 .G53 2003, or visit www.mla.org. The following websites might help you with a citation: <http://citationmachine.net> or www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite. **Always** proofread citations created by databases & electronic citation machines for accuracy.

Electronic Resources

Article from an online reference resource (non-encyclopedia)

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Article." Title of Reference Resource.
Date of Publication: Page Numbers of Article (if available). Database Name. Name of service.
Library's name. Date of Access.

Katel, Peter. "Minimum Wage." CQ Researcher. 16 Dec. 2005: 1053-1076. CQ Researcher Online. CQ
Press. MCTC Library. 1 Feb. 2007.

"Transgender Rights." Issues & Controversies On File. 24 May 2002. Issues & Controversies @
FACTS.com. Facts On File News Services. MCTC Library. 1 Feb. 2007.

McKinley, Brian McElroy. "Abortion Does Not Violate Human Rights." Abortion. San Diego:
Greenhaven Press, 2002. Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center. Gale. MCTC Library. 12 Feb. 2007.

Encyclopedia article from an online database

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Article." Title of Encyclopedia. Place of
Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Database Name. Name of Service. Library's name. Date
of Access.

"Minimum Wage." West's Encyclopedia of American Law. Detroit: Gale, 2005. Gale Virtual Reference
Library. Gale. MCTC Library. 2 Feb. 2007.

No author listed because the article was unsigned.

Magazine article from an online database

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Magazine Article." Title of Magazine Date of
Publication: Page Numbers of Article (if available). Name of the Periodical Database. Name of
Service. Library's name. Date of Access.

Delves, Donald P. "How Much Pay . . . for How Much Performance?" Across the Board July-Aug. 2004:
14-18. MasterFILE Premier. EBSCO. MCTC Library. 5 Feb. 2007.

Scholarly journal article from an online database

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Journal Article." Title of Journal Volume.Issue
(Date of Publication): Page Numbers of Article (if available). Name of the Periodical Database.
Name of Service. Library's name. Date of Access.

Kull, Stephen, Clay Ramsay and Evan Lewis. "Misperceptions, the Media, and the Iraq War."
Political Science Quarterly 118.4 (2003/2004): 569-598. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO.
MCTC Library. 6 Feb. 2006.

Declercq, Eugene R., et al. "Listening to Mothers II: Report of the Second National U.S. Survey of
Women's Childbearing Experiences." Journal of Perinatal Education 16.4 (Fall 2007): 9-14. Alt
HealthWatch. EBSCO. MCTC Library. 15 February 2008.

Resources with more than 3 authors may list only the first author followed by et al.

Newspaper article from an online database

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Newspaper Article." Title of Newspaper Date of
Publication, Edition, Section and Page Number(s) of Article. Name of Newspaper Database. Name
of Service. Library's name. Date of Access.

Levy, Paul. "Minneapolis Gets Top Shelf in Literacy Study; St. Paul is Ranked No. 16, But Experts Say
National Report's Books Don't Add Up." Star Tribune 4 Aug. 2004, Metro ed.: B1. ProQuest
Newspapers. ProQuest. MCTC Library. 6 Feb. 2007.

Kifner, John. "Police in Chicago Slay 2 Panthers." New York Times 5 Dec. 1969: 1+. Historical
Newspapers The New York Times (1851-2003). ProQuest. MCTC Library. 6 Feb. 2007.

E-book

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. Title of Ebook. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of
Publication. Electronic Publication Information. Name of Service. Library's Name (if applicable).
Date of Access.

Gold, John Robert, and George Revill. Representing the Environment. New York: Routledge, 2004.
NetLibrary. OCLC. MCTC Library. 7 Feb. 2007.

Web Page

When citing a Web page, try to get as much traditional citation information as possible. In addition, you will need to include the address (URL) of the specific web page you are citing. If the URL is very long, use the URL of the main web site. At minimum, a citation for a web page should include a title, date of access, and the URL.

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Web Page." Title of Web Site. Date of Publication or Last Revision. Name of institution or organization sponsoring site. Date of Access. <URL>.

Bendersky, Yevgeny. "India: a Rising Power." Power and Interest News Report. 18 Aug. 2004. Power and Interest News Report (PINR). 6 Feb. 2007. < <http://www.pinr.com> >.

"Pet Shops: No Bargain for Animals." Helping Animals. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). 6 Feb. 2007. <<http://www.helpinganimals.com/Factsheet/files/FactsheetDisplay.asp?ID=36>>.

Print Resources

Book with a single author

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. Complete Title of Work. Edition (if specified). Place of Publication: Name of Publisher, Date of Publication.

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2003.

Book with two or three authors

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name, and Second Author's First and Last Name. Complete Title of Work. Edition (if specified). Place of Publication: Name of Publisher, Date of Publication.

Herman, Edward S., and Noam Chomsky. Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media. New York: Pantheon Books, 1988.

Adovasio, J. M., Olga Soffer and Jake Page. The Invisible Sex: Uncovering the True Roles of Women in Prehistory. New York: Smithsonian Books, 2007.

Book with an editor

Editor's Last Name, Editor's First Name, ed. Complete Title of Work. Edition (if specified). Place of Publication: Name of Publisher, Date of Publication.

Davis, Carol M., ed. Complementary Therapies in Rehabilitation. 2nd ed. Thorofare, NJ: SLACK, 2004.

Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, ed. The Revolution will not be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex. Cambridge, Mass: South End Press, 2007.

Book with translator

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. Complete Title of Work. Trans. Name of Translator. Place of Publication: Name of Publisher, Date of Publication.

Korn, Fadumo and Sabine Eichhorst. Born in the Big Rains: A Memoir of Somalia and Survival. Trans. Tobe Levin. New York: Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2006.

Encyclopedia article

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Article." Title of Encyclopedia. Ed. Editor's First Name Editor's Last Name. Edition. Number of Volumes in the Set (if more than one volume). Place of Publication: Name of Publisher, Date of Publication.

Bedau, Hugo Adam. "Civil Disobedience." Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics. Ed. Ruth Chadwick. 4 vols. San Diego: Academic Press, 1998.

Article in a reference book (non-encyclopedia)

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Article." Title of Reference Book. Ed. Editor's First Name Editor's Last Name. Edition or Volume Number. Place of Publication: Name of Publisher, Date of Publication. Page Numbers of Article.

Randall, Margaret. "Barbara Kingsolver 1955-." Contemporary Literary Criticism. Ed. Jeffrey W. Hunter. Vol. 130. Detroit: Gale Group, 2000. 70-72.

Magazine article

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Magazine Article." Title of Magazine. Date of Publication: Page Numbers of Article.

Roddick, Anita. "There is a Human Being Behind that Label." Ecologist. July-Aug. 2004: 23-27.

Scholarly journal article

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Journal Article." Title of Journal. Volume Number. Issue Number (Date of Publication): Page Numbers of Article.

Frye, Robert Vaughn. "Therapeutic Communities: A Therapeutic Bridge." Journal of Psychoactive Drugs. 36.2 (2004): 265-271.

Newspaper article

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Newspaper Article." Title of Newspaper. Date of Publication, Edition, Section and Page Number(s) of Article.

Madrick, Jeff. "If Higher Education is so Important to the Economy, Why is Its Financing Being Cut More Than That of Other Large Programs?" New York Times. 5 Aug. 2004, late ed.: C2.

Audiovisual Resources

VHS

Video Title. Dir. Director's First Name Director's Last Name. (Optionally, you could add the Screenwriter and/or Producer's Name here). Videocassette. Distributor, Year of Release.

Bioterror. Dir. Kirk Wolfinger. Prod. and Writer Matthew Collins. Videocassette. WGBH Education Foundation, 2002.

DVD

DVD Title. Dir. Director's First Name Director's Last Name. (Optionally, you could add the Screenwriter and/or Producer here). Original release date (if relevant). DVD. Distributor, Year of Current Release.

Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media. Dir. and Prod. Mark Achbar and Peter Wintonick. 1992. DVD. Zeitgeist Films, 2002.

Sound Recording

Last Name, First Name. (of the artist, performer, composer, or conductor, depending on which person you wish to emphasize). "Title of Specific Track." (If applicable) Title of Sound Recording. Medium. Name of Publisher or Manufacturer, Year of Publication.

Madison, Otis. Ballot Access: Race and the U.S. Electoral System. Audiocassette. National Radio Project, 2001.

Hill, Joe. Don't Mourn—Organize!: Songs of Labor Songwriter Joe Hill. Compact Disc. Cambridge, Mass.: Rounder, 1990.

Works Cited

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th edition. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2003.