

MLA STYLE FOR CITING PRINT SOURCES: A BRIEF GUIDE

The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition, 2009, is the standard guide for college students to the documentation style of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The following information is based on the *Handbook*. Consult the full *Handbook* (at the reference desk, REF LB 2369 G53 2009) for specific citation types not included here. **ALSO: The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University has created a very good online guide (with many examples) to the MLA style. You can access it at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.**

Parenthetical Citation in Text

In the text of your paper you must document sources from which you are quoting or paraphrasing using brief parenthetical citations that correspond to your alphabetical list of works cited at the end of the paper. Here is an example:

Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras, who lived in the sixth century BC (Marcuse 197).

The parenthetical citation “(Marcuse 197)” tells the reader that the information in the sentence was derived from page 197 of a work by an author named Marcuse. If the reader wants more information about this source, he/she can turn to the works cited list, where a complete citation for Marcuse’s work will be found.

The Works Cited List

The list of works cited appears at the end of the paper. Center the title, Works Cited, an inch from the top of the page. Double-space between the title and the first entry. Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line or lines one-half inch from the left margin.

The examples below are single spaced to save room, but entries on a Works Cited list must be double spaced .

Notes: If there is more than one author, give names in the same order as on the title page. If there are more than three authors, you may name only the first and add et al (“and others”), for example, Edens, Walter, et al.

If citing only one volume of a multivolume work, include only that volume number after the title. If citing more than one volume of a multivolume work, cite the total number of volumes in the work.

Any information present in the following examples, but absent from your source, will be omitted from your citation. For example, if there is neither an editor nor edition, or your source is not a multivolume set, these elements cannot be included.

Citing a Book with an Author(s) or Editor(s):

Format	Author’s Last Name, First Name and Initial. <i>Title of the Book</i> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Medium.
Example	Marcuse, Sibyl. <i>A Survey of Musical Instruments</i> . New York: Harper, 1975. Print.
Example	Klinger, Donna, and Lucie Lapovsky, eds. <i>Strategic Financial Challenges for Higher Education: How to Achieve Quality, Accountability, and Innovation</i> . San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008. Print.
Example	Marquart, James W., Sheldon Ekland Olson, and Jonathan R. Sorensen. <i>The Rope, the Chair, and the Needle: Capital Punishment in Texas, 1923-1990</i> . Austin: U of Texas P, 1994. Print.

Citing a Book by a Corporate Author:

Format	Corporate Author’s Name. <i>Title of the Book</i> . Editor [if given]. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Medium.
Example	National Research Council. <i>China and Global Change: Opportunities for Collaboration</i> . Washington: Natl. Acad., 1992. Print.
Example	Cohen, Selma J., and Dance Perspectives Foundation. <i>International Encyclopedia of Dance: a Project of Dance Perspectives Foundation</i> . 6 vols. New York: Oxford UP, 1998. Print.

Citing a Work in an Anthology:

Format	Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of the Work Being Cited.” <i>Title of the Anthology</i> . Editor of the Anthology. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication [of the anthology]. Page numbers of the cited piece. Medium.
Example	Allende, Isabel. “Toad’s Mouth.” Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. <i>A Hammock Beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America</i> . Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88. Print.
Example	More, Hannah. “The Black Slave Trade: A Poem.” <i>British Women Poets of the Romantic Era</i> . Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472-82. Print.

Citing an Article in a Reference Book:

Format	Author's Last Name, First Name. [if the article is unsigned, give the title first] "Title of the Article." <i>Title of the Reference Work</i> . Edition. Date of Publication. Medium.
Example	Mohanty, Jitendra M. "Indian Philosophy." <i>The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropaedia</i> . 15 th ed. 1987. Print.
Example	Charo, R. Alta. "Reproductive Technologies: Legal and Regulatory Issues." <i>Encyclopedia of Bioethics</i> . Ed. Warren T. Reich. Rev. ed. Vol. 4. New York: Macmillan-Simon, 1995. Print.
Example	Lovelock, Peter, and John Ure. "The New Economy: Internet Telecommunications and Electronic Commerce?" <i>The Handbook of New Media</i> . Ed. Leah A. Lievrouw and Sonia Livingstone. London: Sage Pub., 2002. 350-68. Print.

Note: When citing less familiar reference books, give the full publication information: editor [if given], place of publication and publisher – see examples, Charo and Lovelock, above for proper order of full information. Also, if the reference book is not organized alphabetically, include the page number(s) of the article after the publication date – see Lovelock example above.

Citing a Government Publication:

Format	Government Name. Government Agency. <i>Title of Publication</i> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Medium.
Example	United States. Census Bureau. <i>Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2001</i> . Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2001. Print.
Example	California. Dept. of Justice. <i>California Attorney General's Women's Rights Handbook</i> . Sacramento: Office of the Attorney General, 1990. Print.

Note: If known, the name of the document's author may be included either at the beginning of the entry or after the title and the word By or an abbreviation such as Ed. or Comp. See the *MLA Handbook*, section 5.5.20 for examples.

Citing an Article in a Scholarly Journal:

Format	Author's Name. "Title of the Article." <i>Title of the Periodical</i> volume number.issue number [if available] (year): pages. Medium.
Example	Craner, Paul M. "New Tool for an Ancient Art: The Computer and Music." <i>Computers and the Humanities</i> 25 (1991): 303-13. Print.
Example	Vickery, Laurie. "The Politics of Abuse: The Traumatized Child in Toni Morrison and Marguerite Duras." <i>Mosaic</i> 29.2 (1996): 91-109. Print.

Citing an Article in a Magazine:

Format	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Magazine</i> day [if given] Month year: pages. [Do NOT give the volume and issue numbers even if they are listed.] Medium.
Example	Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly. "The Creative Personality." <i>Psychology Today</i> July-Aug. 1996: 36-40. Print.
Example	Armstrong, Larry, Dori Jones Yang, and Alice Cuneo. "The Learning Revolution: Technology Is Reshaping Education—at Home and at School." <i>Business Week</i> 28 Feb. 1994: 80-88. Print.

Citing an Article in a Newspaper:

Format	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Name of Newspaper</i> day Month year, edition of newspaper: section [if there is one] and page number. Medium.
Example	Lohr, Steve. "Now Playing: Babes in Cyberspace." <i>New York Times</i> 3 Apr. 1998, late ed.: C1+. Print.
Example	Kiernan, Vincent. "Study Finds Errors in Medical Information Available on the Web." <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> 12 June 1998: A25. Print.