



MLA Format

This handout provides a quick reference to the basics of using MLA style. For complete guidelines, consult *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., call number: LB2369 .G53 2009. All page numbers provided below refer to the *MLA Handbook*.

Major Updates from the New (7th) Edition

- MLA no longer requires underlining. Titles, such as books and periodical titles, are now *italicized* rather than underlined.
- All entries in a reference list, whether print or electronic, must now include the medium in which they have been published (Print, Web, DVD, Television, etc.)
- URLs are no longer required in citations. MLA recommends that writers only include a web address if the audience is unlikely to find the source otherwise.
- **New Abbreviations:** Some sources do not have a date, publisher or pagination. MLA advises, where applicable, to write n.d. for no date, n.p. for no publisher, and n.pag. for no pagination given.

Formatting Basics (pp. 115-122)

- Double space throughout paper, with no extra spaces between paragraphs.
- Do not right justify.
- Top, bottom, and side margins should be one inch.
- Indent the first word of each paragraph by ½ inch or 5 spaces.
- Do not use a title page for the research paper: instead simply type your name, instructor's name, course number, and date. This should be flush with the left margin.
- Center the title of the paper. Do not underline the title, or put in "quotation marks," or set in ALL CAPITALS.
- Number all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, ½ inch from the top and flush with right margin. Type your last name before the page number, and do not use "p." before the number.

SAMPLE FIRST PAGE:

Josephson 1
Laura Josephson Professor Barnett Humanities 210 8 November 2008
Ellington's Adventures in Music and Geography
In studying the influence of Latin American, African, and Asian music on modern

Works Cited (pp. 123-212)

MLA style requires that the list of Works Cited start on a new page at the end of your paper. Formatting rules include:

- Continue page numbering from the body of your paper.
- Center the title “Works Cited,” one inch from the top.
- Alphabetize entries by the author’s last name. If no author, alphabetize by the title (ignore A, An, The).
- Use a hanging indent.

For books (pp. 148-181):

- Name(s) of authors or editors. If only citing one chapter within a book, the author and title (in “quotation marks”) of the chapter.
- Title of book (including subtitle) *italicized*.
- City of publication, name of the publisher, and year of publication.
- Medium of publication.
- Edition (only if 2nd ed. or later).
- Volume number (if there is one).
- If citing one chapter within a book, the page numbers of the chapter.

For print journal and magazine articles (pp. 136-148):

- Names of authors.
- Title of article in “quotation marks.”
- Title of journal or magazine *italicized*.
- Volume number (for a journal).
- Issue number (for a journal, if available).
- Date of publication (for journal article, note year only).
- Page numbers of the article.
- Medium of publication (Print).

For journal and magazine articles acquired using a library database (pp. 192-193):

- Names of authors.
- Title of article in “quotation marks.”
- Title of journal or magazine *italicized*.
- Volume number and issue number (for a journal).
- Date of publication (for journal article, note year only).
- Page numbers of the article as originally published in print journal.
- Name of the database *italicized*.
- Medium of publication (Web).
- Date of access (day, month, and year).

For websites (pp. 181-190):

- Name of author or editor (if given).
- Title of the work *italicized* if the work is independent; in quotation marks if it is part of a larger work.
- Title of the overall website *italicized*, if distinct from above.
- Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use n.p.
- Date of publication (day, month, and year), if not available, use n.d.
- Medium of publication (Web).
- Date of access (day, month, and year).

Examples of Citations

Book with one author:

Steele, Timothy. *The Color Wheel: Poems*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1994. Print.

Book with two or three authors:

Broer, Lawrence R., and Gloria Holland. *Hemingway and Women: Female Critics and the Female Voice*. Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama P, 2002. Print.

Book with four or more authors:

Jones, Terry, et al. *Who Murdered Chaucer?: A Medieval Mystery*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2004. Print.

Chapter in a book:

Naremore, James. "Hitchcock at the Margins of Noir." *Alfred Hitchcock: Centenary Essays*. Ed. Richard Allen and S. Ishii-Gonzales. London: BFI, 1999. 263-77. Print.

Translation:

Murasaki Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*. Trans. Royall Tyler. New York: Viking, 2001. Print.

Print journal article:

Levine, June Perry. "Passage to the Odeon: Too Lean." *Literature Film Quarterly* 14.3 (1986): 139-50. Print.

Journal article acquired using a library database:

Letemendia, V. C. "Revolution on Animal Farm: Orwell's Neglected Commentary." *Journal of Modern Literature* 18.1 (1992): 127-37. JSTOR. Web. 6 July 2009.

Website:

Bio. A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 7 July 2009.

Newspaper article:

Daker, Susan. "No Happy Holiday for Refiners." *Wall Street Journal* 3 July 2009: C10. Print.

Film:

Chocolat. Dir. Lasse Hallstrom. Perf. Alfred Molina and Juliette Binoche. 2000. Miramax, 2003. DVD.

Parenthetical Citations (pp. 213-232)

- References in your paper must clearly point to specific sources in your list of Works Cited.
- In most cases, providing the author's last name and the page number is sufficient:
Medieval Europe was a place both of "raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion" and of "traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns if not cities, and active markets in grain" (Townsend 10).
- If you have several works by the same author, also include the title (abbreviated if long):
(Frye, *Double Vision* 85).
- If no author is listed, use the title (shortened if long):
Voice of the Shuttle has many electronic sources.
- If using the title, remember to use correct punctuation: italicize book titles, use quotation marks for journal articles, short stories, book chapters, etc.
- The author's name can be referred to within the sentence:
Tannen has argued this point (178-85).
...or the author's name can be referred to within the parenthetical reference:
This point has already been argued (Tannen 178-85).

For additional help

- Consult Joseph Gibaldi's *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed, available at the Reference Desk and on Reserve.
- Refer to the Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/15/>
- Utilize bibliographic management tools such as...
 - RefWorks - <https://www.refworks.com/Refworks>
 - Zotero (Firefox only) - <http://www.zotero.org/>
 - Knight Cite - <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/>
- Ask a Librarian at any public or college library, or use the AskNow 24/7 internet chat service: <http://www.calstatela.edu/library/asknow.htm>