SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE
CONNECTICUT
CENTER FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Modern Language Association (MLA) Style of Referencing

The following departments generally use the MLA referencing style:

English   **Philosophy**   **Foreign Languages**   **Religious Studies**

Professors in other departments may also accept MLA formatting. Please check with your individual instructor.

MLA Formatting

Title
The MLA research paper does not need a separate title page. Instead, beginning one inch from the top of the first page and flush against the left margin, type your name, your instructor's name, the course name and number, and the date all on separate lines with double spacing between lines. Double space again and center the title of your paper. Double space between the title and the first line of your paper. Do not underline your title, put it in quotation marks, bold face, italicize it, or type it in all capital letters. Do not use periods at the end of your title or after any headings.

Margins
Except for the "header" (see next guideline), leave one-inch margins at the top and bottom and on both sides of the text. Always use standard, white 8 ½ by 11-inch paper.

Pagination
Page numbers are included in an MLA "header." The MLA header helps ensure consecutive pagination and guards against loss of pages. The header includes the student's last name and consecutive page numbers. The header must appear flush against the right margin in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top of the page. Do not use the abbreviation "p." before the page number or add a period, hyphen, or any other mark or symbol.

Spacing
The entire text of the MLA paper must be double-spaced. This guideline applies to blocked quotations, content notes, and the Works Cited page.

Indention
Indent the first word of a paragraph a half inch (1/2"). Indent block quotations one inch (1") from the left margin. Although the first line of entries on the Works Cited page abuts the left margin, subsequent lines in the Works Cited entries are half inch (1/2"), using a hanging indent.

Parenthetical Citations

The MLA style uses parenthetical citations to document a reference in the text of a paper. When you quote a source, you need to cite the author and give the page number(s) on which the material appears. You may do this in different ways.

If you mention the author's name in the text, you put *only* the page number in the parenthetical citation. The quotation mark to close quoted text is placed before the parenthetical citation. There is no a comma between the author's name and page number.

> Willa Cather describes Paul as "tall for his age and very thin, with high cramped
>
> shoulders and a narrow chest" (144).

Please be aware that the abbreviation "p." is not used before the page number with MLA parenthetical citations. The period follows the closing parenthesis.

If the author's name is not used in your sentence, you must give the name in the parenthetical citation in the following format:

> Paul was "tall for his age and very thin, with high cramped shoulders and a
>
> narrow chest" (Cather 144).

Whether set off from the text or run into it, quoted material is usually preceded by a colon if the quotation is formally introduced or by a comma or no punctuation if the quotation is an integral part of the sentence structure.

> Percy Bysshe Shelley held a bold view: "Poets are the unacknowledged
> legislators of the World" (794).

> Percy Bysshe Shelley thought poets "the unacknowledged legislators of the
> World" (794).

> "Poets," according to Percy Bysshe Shelley, "are the unacknowledged legislators
> of the World" (794).

The comma after "Poets" did not appear in the original text but was added to make the grammar of the sentence correct. However, you may not include punctuation within your quotation marks that does not appear in the original text. For example:

> Edith Wharton claims that "the test of the novel is that its people should be *alive*";
>
> however, she feels that short stories depend more on "the dramatic rendering of a
>
> situation" (389).

If you are transcribing an **exclamation point or question mark** that appeared in the source you are quoting, those marks will appear inside the quotation marks. Note that a period still follows the parenthetical citation.

> The older waiter in Earnest Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" asks
>
> himself, "What did he fear?" (79).

> Voices in the house of "The Rocking-Horse Winner" haunt its inhabitants,
>
> incessantly telling them that *"There must be more money*!*"* (297).

Use of References' First Names and Middle Names or Initials

The *author's full name* is given in the *text of the paper* the first time the author is mentioned. For subsequent references to the same person, just use the author's last name. However, *parenthetical citations* use only *last names*. See the two examples below. Also note that the ampersand sign (&) is not used in parenthetical citations between the two names.

> Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs claim, "The skills needed for writing
>
> strong essays about literature cannot be separated from the skills involved in
>
> intelligent reading" (xiii).

> "The skills needed for writing strong essays about literature cannot be separated
>
> from the skills involve in the intelligent reading" (Roberts and Jacobs xiii).

Citing Electronic Sources "In-text"

- Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name).

- You do not need to give paragraph numbers or page numbers based on your Web browser's print preview function.

- Unless you must list the website name in the signal phrase to get the reader to the appropriate entry, do not include URLs in-text. Only provide partial URLs such as when the name of the site includes, for example, a domain name, like *CNN.com* or *Forbes.com* as opposed to writing out http://www.cnn.com or http://www.forbes.com.

As with print sources, information you access electronically is attributed in your text to its author. However, because page numbers are usually not used with Internet sources, the usual format for MLA parenthetical citations (author's last name page number) does not work very

well. The *MLA Handbook* recommends citing all sources without pagination in your text rather than in parenthetical citations. Examples:

> Stephen Hall Clark points out that while increased use of the railways in Britain
>
> promoted leisure travel for all classes, train cars, divided into first, second and third class,
>
> also were "steel barriers" between classes.

> Jere Longman suggests that the women's World Cup team is sending "a message around
>
> the world that women can be both athletic and feminine in an endeavor that in many
>
> **wrong word** countries, still carries the stigma that women who play are somehow
>
> unwomanly."

Note that no parenthetical citation is used, and the web address does not appear in the text. Readers will reference the authors' names in your Works Cited page and find out where these citations came from.

Works Cited Page

A list of works cited appears at the end of the paper. Begin the list on a new page and center the title, Works Cited. Entries are double spaced and subsequent lines should employ a hanging indent. Sources are listed alphabetically by author's last name. Only those sources that were cited in the paper should be listed here. Sources not cited in your paper are not included on this list, even if you have read them to inform your discussion of the research topic.

Some basic formats for commonly used sources appear below. Note the guidelines that govern punctuation, spacing, capitalization, underlining, and other formatting details. For additional assistance consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers: 7th edition* or an updated college composition book that includes a section on the MLA documentation format.

2009 Updates

There are three changes to MLA format that affect the way you cite sources.

1. MLA no longer requires underlining of titles. This is the case for both in-text and in Works Cited entries.
2. MLA, generally, no longer requires you to cite the URLs of your electronic sources. The only instance in which writers are encouraged to include the URL is if the citation information will not allow the reader to locate the source easily. Writers are encouraged to record the URL for their own research purposes so that documents are easy to retrieve if necessary during the writing process.

3. MLA requires that every Works Cited entry include the medium of publication, that is, the type of document it is. The majority of your citations will either be "Print" or "Web," while some may be "TV," "Film," "Performance," etc.

General Citation Format

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

      Medium of Publication.

Each section – author, title, and publication essentials – is punctuated with a period. Give the most recent date listed for publication information.

Common Citation Examples

Book with a Single Author

Cressy, David. *Birth, Marriage, and Death: Ritual, Religion, and the Life Cycle in Tudor and*

      Stuart England. London: Oxford UP, 1997. Print.

Book with Two or More Authors

Jakobson, Roman, and Linda R. Waugh. *The Sound Shape of Language.* Bloomington: Indiana

      UP, 1979. Print.

A Book with an Editor

Lopate, Phillip, ed. *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the*

      Present. New York: Anchor-Doubleday, 1994. Print.

Short Story Found in an Anthology

Cather, Willa. "Paul's Case." *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction.*

      3rd ed. Ed. Ann Charters. Boston: Bedford, 1991. 83-94. Print.

Essay in a Book with an Editor

Everingham, Jo-Anne. "Organizing for Television Study and Use." *English Teachers at*

      Work: Ideas and Strategies from Five Countries. Ed. Stephen N. Tchudi. Upper

Montclair: Boynton, 1986. 224-227. Print.

Article in a Journal

Haswell, Janis, and Richard H. Haswell. "Gendership and the Miswriting of Students."

College Composition and Communication. 67.2 (1995): 223-254. Print

Note: "67.2" signifies the volume number followed by the issue number.

Article from a Monthly or Bimonthly Magazine

Wills, Garry. "The Words That Remade America: Lincoln at Gettysburg." *Atlantic*

Monthly. June 1992: 57-79. Print.

An Article from a Weekly or Biweekly Magazine

Trillin, Calvin. "Culture Shopping." *New Yorker* 15 Feb. 1993: 48-51. Print.

An Article in a Newspaper

Rosenberg, Geanne. "Electronic Discovery Proves an Effective Legal Weapon." *New York*

Times 31 Mar. 1997, late ed.: D5. Print.

Note: "D5" is the section of the paper and the page number.

Speech or Lecture

Atwood, Margaret. "Silencing the Scream." Boundaries of the Imagination Forum. MLA

Convention. Royal York Hotel, Toronto. 29 Dec. 1993. Lecture.

Terkel, Studs. "Address. Conf. On Coll. Composition and Communication Convention." Palmer

House, Chicago. 22 Mar. 1990. Speech.

Interviews

Note: There are two basic categories of interview: print, broadcast, internet etc. published
interviews and unpublished (personal) interviews.

Wolfe, Tom. Interview. *The Wrong Stuff: American Architecture*. Dir. Tom Bettag.

    Videocassette. Carousel, 1983. Print.

Wiesel, Elie. Interview with Ted Koppel. *Nightline*. ABC. WABC, New York. 18 Apr. 2002.

    Slade, Hammer. 25 Oct. 1995. Television.

Pynchon, Thomas. Personal Interview. 1 Dec. 1973.

Television program

The Infinite Voyage. PBS. WNET, New York. 6 May 1992. Television.

Film or Video Recording

Note: A film entry begins with title (underlined or italicized) and includes director, distributor, and year of release. You may want to include other pertinent data such as names of the writer, performers, and producer between the title and the distributor.

It's a Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore,

    and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946. Movie.

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.

    Movie.

Citing Internet Sources

2009 Updates

There are six changes to MLA format that affect the way you cite electronic sources.

1. MLA, generally, no longer requires you to cite the URLs of your electronic sources. The only instance in which writers are encouraged to include the URL is if the citation information will not allow the reader to locate the source easily. Writer's are encouraged to record the URL for their own research purposes so that documents are easy to retrieve if necessary during the writing process.

2. MLA requires that every Works Cited entry include the medium of publication, that is, the type of document it is. The majority of your citations will either be "Print" or "Web" while some may be "TV," "Film," "Performance," etc.

3. MLA requires a "date of access", that is, the date when the document was consulted. This information should always follow the publication medium Web.

4. If you are citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database, you should type the online database name in italics. You do not need to provide subscription information in addition to the database name.

5. MLA no longer requires any information pertaining to the library where you conducted research or accessed databases.

6. MLA requires specific abbreviations to indicate that certain information could not be retrieved for the works cited entry. Those abbreviations are as follows:

   - Add "n.p." when no publisher name appears on the website you are citing.

   - Add "n.d." when no date of publication appears on the website you are citing.

   - Add "n.pag." when you are citing a journal that only appears online (i.e. there is no print version) and doesn't provide pagination (i.e. no page numbers) or on databases that provide no pagination.

General Citation Format

The following list of common features, as noted by the Perdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL), that you should try to locate for each document before you prepare your citation are as follows:

   - Author and/or editor names (if available)

   - Article name in quotation marks (if applicable)

   - Title of the Website, project, or book in italics. (Remember that some Print publications have Web publications with slightly different names. They may, for example, include the additional information or otherwise modified information, like domain names [e.g. .com or .net].)

   - Any version numbers available, including revisions, posting dates, volumes, or issue numbers.

   - Publisher information, including the publisher name and publishing date.

   - Take note of any page numbers (if available).

   - Date you accessed the material.

   - URL (if required, or for your own personal reference).

Common Citation Examples

Article in an Online Scholarly Journal

William, Andrew P. "The Center of Attention: Theatricality and the Restoration Fop." *Early*

    Modern Literary Studies 4.3 (January, 1999): Web. 10 July 1999.

Article from on Online Scholarly Database

Wilkins, Johanna M. "The Myths of the Only Child." *Psychology Update* 12 Dec. 1999: 16-20.

    ProQuest Direct. Web. 20 Dec. 1999.

Online Book

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *Twice-Told Tales*. Ed. George Parsons Lathrop. Boston: Houghton,

    1883. Web. 16 May 2002.

Online Newspaper

Coates, Steve. "A Dead Language Comes to Life on the Internet." *New York Times.* Web. 28

    Oct. 1996. 20 Apr. 1997.

A Personal or Professional Website

Dawe, James. Jane Austen Page. 15 Sept. 1997.

Scholarly Project

The Cinderella Project. Ed. Michale N. Salda. Vers. 1.0. Feb. 1995. *De Grummond Children's*

    Lit. Research Collection. 18 Mar. 1997.

Language Association of America, 2009. Print. Parenthetical References in the Text of a Paper. Parenthetical references are used to acknowledge your use of borrowed material throughout your paper. You do this by placing, in parentheses, the author's last name and the page number of the work from which you have borrowed or quoted material. Parenthetical references for Web sources are cited just like printed works except they will often not have pages. Because parenthetical references are so brief, they must always be accompanied by a list of Works Cited. "Guidelines for Editors of Scholarly Editions." Modern Language Association. MLA, 25. Sept. The MLA style was updated in 2016 by the Modern Language Association. Works are cited in the text with brief parenthetical citations keyed to the list of works cited. MLA 8th ed. referencing style Library guide. MLA Handbook 8th ed. MLA Style Centre. The MLA Handbook 8th edition supersedes Vancouver is a generic term for a style of referencing widely used in the health sciences, using a numbered reference list. There is no official manual of the Vancouver style, but the US National Library of Medicine's style guide is now considered the most authoritative manual on this type of referencing. Vancouver Library guide Get the related EndNote Vancouver (Superior) Output style. NLM (National Library of Medicine) style guide, 2nd ed. The MLA Style Center, the only authorized Web site on MLA style, provides free resources on research, writing, and documentation. Get MLA Style News from The Source. Be the first to read new posts and updates about MLA style. The Source Sign-up - Style Center Footer. Need assistance with this form? About The MLA Style Center. Donate. Contact. Terms of Service — © 2019 Modern Language Association of America.