

# MLA Citation Style



This handout provides a summary of rules established by the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers for documenting the original source of an idea or quotation. There are two steps in MLA documentation: (1) provide a brief citation to the original source in the text of your paper and (2) make a full citation on the Works Cited page at the end of your paper. For the most authoritative and complete set of rules for MLA style, see the MLA Handbook, Chapters 5-6.

## Documenting Sources in the Text

Use parenthetical references in the text of your paper to show the original source of an idea or quotation. A parenthetical reference has brief information, usually the author's last name and the page numbers of the section you are quoting or paraphrasing – just enough to help a reader find the source in the works cited list at the end of your paper. You have the option to include some information, such as the author's last name, in the text itself, or you can put everything in a parenthetical reference at the end of a sentence.

<b>One author in text</b>	Marcuse made this claim (197-98).
<b>One author in reference</b>	This claim has been made (Marcuse 197-98).
<b>Two or three authors in text</b>	Hunt and Wilkins dispute this point (45-47). Hunt, Wilkins, and Mao dispute this point (45-47).
<b>Two or three authors in reference</b>	This point is disputed (Hunt and Wilkins 45-47). This point is disputed (Hunt, Wilkins, and Mao 45-47).
<b>Four or more authors in text</b>	Baxter and her co-authors...this proposal (203-05)
<b>Four or more authors in reference</b>	...made this proposal (Baxter, et al. 203-05).
<b>Multivolume works in text</b>	In volume 2, Williams notes... (30-34).
<b>Multivolume works in reference</b>	(Williams 2: 30-34)
<b>Work with no author</b>	( <u>Primary Colors</u> 56) ("A New Strategy for Fighting AIDS" A22)
<b>Two works by same author</b>	(Hawthorne, <u>The Scarlett Letter</u> 15-20) (Hawthorne, <u>The Blithedale Romance</u> 40-42)

## The Works Cited Page

The Works Cited page at the end of your paper provides a complete citation to every source mentioned in the text. Start with a new page, continuing the page numbers of the text. Use double-spacing for the entire page. Center the title, *Works Cited*, one inch from the top. Begin your list of works cited on the next line. Arrange the cited works in alphabetical order by author. For works that have no author, use the title. Start the first line of each citation flush with the left margin. Indent subsequent lines of each citation one-half inch from the margin (hanging indent).

## Books

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Use the author/editor, title, place of publication, publisher, and date of publication.

### Book with No Author

Primary Colors: A Novel of Politics. New York: Random House, 1996.

### Book with One Author/Editor

Barth, Roland S. Learning by Heart. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001.

Kelin, Kathleen Gregory, ed. Great Women Mystery Writers. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1994.

### Book with Two or Three Authors/Editors

Killam, Douglas and Ruth Rowe, eds. The Companion to African Literatures. Bloomington: Indiana U Press, 2000.

Landre, Rick, Mike Miller, and Dee Porter. Gangs: A Handbook for Community Awareness. New York: Facts on File, 1997.

### Book with Four or More Authors/Editors

Geotting, Denise, et al. Newberry and Caldecott Awards: A Subject Index. Worthington: Linworth, 2003.

### Editions and Multivolume Works

Baym, Nina, ed. The Norton Anthology of American Literature. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. 5 vols. New York: Norton, 2003.

### Chapter or Work in an Anthology

Add the author, title, and page numbers of the chapter or work. For an essay, story, or poem, use quotation marks for the title. For a novel or play, underline the title.

Hansberry, Lorraine. A Raisin in the Sun. Plays for the Theatre: An Anthology of World Drama. Ed. Oscar G. Brockett and Lenyth Brockett. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1979. 522-581.

Terkel, Studs. "Stephen Cruz." Rereading America. Ed. Gary Colombo, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004. 348-353.

## Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers

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### Journal Article

Use the author, article title, journal title, volume, year, and page numbers. If the page numbers restart with each issue, also include the issue number after the volume (i.e., 31.2 rather than 31).

Davis, Cynthia J. "Margaret Fuller, Body and Soul." American Literature 71 (1999): 31-56.

DiMatteo, Anthony. "The Use and Abuse of Shakespeare." College Literature 31.2 (2005): 185-195.

### Magazine Article

Alter, Jonathan. "Truth: The Best Propaganda." Newsweek 4 Mar. 2002: 29.

### Newspaper Article

"Designs on Fuel Savings." Washington Times 8 Oct. 2005: B1+.

## Library Databases

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Start with the rules for books, journals, magazines, and newspapers (see above). Then add the database name, database service, library, date of access, and the database address (URL).

Alter, Jonathan. "Truth: The Best Propaganda." Newsweek 4 Mar. 2002: 29. LexisNexis Academic. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2005  
<<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/>>.

"Country Review: Mexico." CountryWatch. 2005. CountryWatch. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2005 <<http://www.countrywatch.com>>.

Davis, Cynthia J. "Margaret Fuller, Body and Soul." American Literature 71 (1999): 31-56. Omnifile. WilsonWeb. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2002  
<<http://hwwilsonweb.com>>.

"Designs on Fuel Savings." Washington Times 8 Oct. 2005: B1. InfoTrac Custom Newspapers. InfoTrac. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2005  
<<http://infotrac.galegroup.com>>.

Dickens, Charles. Great Expectations. Oxford World Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994. NetLibrary. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2005  
<<http://www.netlibrary.com>>.

DiMatteo, Anthony. "The Use and Abuse of Shakespeare." College Literature 31.2 (2005): 185-195. Academic Search Complete. EBSCOhost. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2005 <<http://search.ebscohost.com>>.

Fishkin, Shelley Fischer. "Mark Twain and Race." Historical Guide to Mark Twain. Ed. Shelley Fischer Fishkin. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. 127-162. ebrary. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2005 <<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/uhdowntown>>.

Feder, Barnaby J. "For Job Seekers, a Toll-Free Gift of Expert Advice." New York Times 30 Dec. 1993, late ed.: C1+. ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times. ProQuest. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2005 <<http://proquest.umi.com/login>>.

Victorica, Gerardo. "Supermarkets in Mexico." US&FCS Market Research Reports 3 Mar. 2003. STAT-USA/Internet. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Economics & Statistics Administration. U of Houston Downtown, W. I. Dykes Lib. 23 May 2005 <<http://www.stat-usa.gov>>.

## Web Sites

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### Document from an Internet Site

Use the author(s), page title, Internet site, publication year, publisher, date of access, and URL:

"Dante Alighieri." Poets.org. 2007. The Academy of American Poets. 8 Nov. 2007 <<http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/1664>>.

"Ten Dogs That Changed the World." CNN.com. 2007. Cable News Network. 7 Nov. 2007 <<http://www.cnn.com/2007/LIVING/wayoflife/11/01/ten.dogs/index.html>>.

### Electronic Book

Follow the rules for books. Add the Internet site, online publication date, date of access, and URL:

Adams, Henry. The Education of Henry Adams. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1918. Bartleby.com: Great Books Online. 1999. 23 May 2005. <<http://www.bartleby.com/159/>>.

Prince, Mary. The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave. London: Westley and Daviseckley, 1831. Digital Schomburg African American Women Writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. 1997. 23 May 2005. <<http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/digs/wwm97262/>>.

### Electronic Journal, Magazine, or Newspaper

Follow the rules for journals, magazines, and newspapers. Add the date of access and URL:

Appenzeller, Tim. "Art: Evolution or Revolution?" Science 20 Nov. 1998: 1451. Science Magazine. 2005. Amer. Assn. for the Advancement of Science. 23 May 2005 <<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/282/5393/1451>>.

Chivers, C. J. "Georgian Police Break Up Protests." The New York Times 8 Nov. 2007. 9 Nov. 2007 <<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/08/world/europe/08georgia.html>>.

Elliott, Janet. "Craddick Opponents Renew Their Fight." Chron.com 18 Jun. 2007. 7 Nov. 2007 <<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/special/07/legislature/4900614.html>>.

Larson, Kerry. "Emerson's Strange Equality." Nineteenth-Century Literature 59 (2004): 315-339. Caliber. 2005. U of California. 23 May 2005 <<http://caliber.ucpress.net/doi/pdf/10.1525/ncl.2004.59.3.315>>.