

MLA Citation Style QuickGuide

The following source was referenced: Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003.

MLA Works Cited Page

The basic format for all MLA works cited entries, no matter what the source, includes as much of the following as is available:

1. the author's name
2. the title of the work (underlined if a book, in quotation marks if an article)
3. the city of publication
4. the publisher
5. the year of publication

For electronic or internet sources, you should also include the following as well:

6. the date the source was accessed online
7. the complete web URL address enclosed in brackets: < and >

Indent all lines after the first one and include a period (.) at the end of all citations. Also, works cited pages must be double-spaced. The examples in this handout are not. Variations of the basic format for all works cited entries are shown in the examples below.

BASIC FORMAT FOR A BOOK:

Author Last name, First. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

One author:

Toffler, Alvin. The Third Wave. New York: Bantam, 1981.

Multiple authors:

Gilbert, Sandra M., and Susan Gubar. The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth Century Literary Imagination. New Haven: Yale UP, 1979.

In the above example, note that the second editor's name is written First name and then Last name. This is true anytime there are two authors or editors to a book. If there are more than three authors or editors of a book, list only the first author's name and use "et al" instead of writing the other names (as in the example below).

EDITED BOOK:

Lauter, Paul, et al., eds. The Heath Anthology of American Literature. 4th ed. 2 vols. Boston: Houghton, 2002.

For books that appear online or for electronic versions of books in print, follow the format below.

ONLINE BOOK:

Author: last name, first. Title of Work. Name of editor [if relevant]. Publication information for the original print version. Publication information for electronic version [Title of Internet site. Date of publication if available]. Date of access and URL for the book.

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. Ed. Henry Churchyard. 1996. Jane Austen Information Page. 6 Sept. 2002 <<http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pridprej.html>>.

ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIAS, DICTIONARIES, AND THESAURI:

Brogaard, Berit, and Joe Salerno. "Fitch's Paradox of Knowability." The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Ed. Edward N. Zalta. Summer 2004. 23 Mar. 2006 <<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/fitch-paradox>>.

ARTICLE IN A MONTHLY MAGAZINE:

Author Last name, First. "Title of article." Title of Magazine Day Month Year of Publication: Page number or range.

Mehta, Pratap Bhanu. "Exploding Myths." New Republic 6 June 1998: 17-19.

ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL (OR MAGAZINE):

Author Last name, First. "Title of article." Title of Journal or Periodical Volume, issue number, or other ID number (Date of publication): Page number or range.

Hanks, Patrick. "Do Word Meanings Exist?" Computers and the Humanities 34 (2000): 205-15.

ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE SCHOLARLY JOURNAL (OR MAGAZINE):

Author Last name, First. "Title of article." Title of Journal or Periodical Volume, issue number, or other ID number (Date of publication): Page number or range. Access Day Month Year and URL.

Butler, Darrell L. "Barriers to Adopting Technology for Teaching and Learning." Educause Quarterly 25.2 (2002): 22-28. Educause. 3 Aug. 2002 <<http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eqm0223.pdf>>.

ARTICLE IN A NEWSPAPER:

Jeromack, Paul. "This Once, a David of the Art World Does Goliath a Favor." New York Times 13 July 2002, late ed.: B7+.

The last entry in the above citation is a page number. If the source does not provide consecutive page numbers, list the first page on which the article appears and use a "+" if the article is more than one page.

ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE NEWSPAPER OR NEWS SERVICE:

Author Last name, First. "Title of article." Title of site or online newspaper Date of publication. Access Day Month Year and URL.

Simon, Cecilia Capuzzi. "A Coach for 'Team You.'" Washingtonpost.com 10 June 2003. 8 Mar. 2006 <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/archives>>.

Notice that the titles of articles in magazines, journals, or newspapers are put inside quotation marks and not underlined. The title of the magazine, journal or newspaper itself is underlined.

ARTICLE FROM A LIBRARY ONLINE DATABASE, FULL-TEXT:

Author Last name, First. "Title of article." Title of journal or periodical. Date of publication: page number. Title of database. Title of information service. Name of library or library system. Access Day Month Year and URL [if applicable].

McMichael, Anthony J. "Population, Environment, Disease, and Survival: Past Patterns, Uncertain Futures." Lancet 30 Mar. 2002: 1145-48. Academic Universe: Medical. Lexis-Nexis. California Digital Lib. 22 May 2002 <<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/>>.

If citing abstracts or reviews of an article from library database, include the word "Abstract" or "Review" in the citation before the title information (as in the example below).

Magnus, Amy Lynn. Abstract. "Inquisitive Pattern Recognition." Diss. Air Force Institute of Technology, 2003. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses. ProQuest. 5 July 2006.

WEB PAGE:

Author Last name, First. "Title of Page." Date of publication and/or last update. Title of Site. Access Day Month Year and URL.

Downes, Stephen. "The New Literacy." 4 Oct. 2002. Stephen's Web. 8 Mar. 2006 <<http://www.downes.ca/cgi-bin/website/view.cgi?dbs=Article&key=1033756665&format=full>>.

WEB SITE:

Title of Site. Name of Editor [if given]. Date of electronic publication or of latest update. Name of sponsoring institution or organization. Access Day Month Year and URL.

The Cinderella Project. Ed. Michael Salada. Dec. 1997. Grummond Children's Lit. Research Collection, U of Southern Mississippi. 15 May 2002 <<http://www-dept.usm.edu/~engdept/cinderella/cinderella.html>>.

GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE, OR ORGANIZATION WEB SITE:

Name of Government. Government agency/ies. Title of the site [or description: Home page]. Date of publication [if available]. Access Day Month Year and URL.

United States. Library of Congress. American Memory. 3 Mar. 2006 <<http://memory.loc.gov>>.

CD-ROM:

Author Last name, First. "Printed Source Title Information." Database Title. Publication medium [CD-ROM]. Name of Vendor [if relevant]. Electronic publication date.

Krach, Peg. "Myth and Facts about Alcohol Abuse in the Elderly." Nursing Feb. 1998: 25+. Abstract. Periodical Abstracts Ondisc. CD-ROM. UMI-ProQuest. Feb. 1998.

PERSONAL EMAIL:

Author Last name, First. "Subject line of e-mail." Description of the message that includes the recipient. Date of Access.

Brown, Barry. "Virtual Reality." Personal e-mail to Mitch Bernstein. 25 Jan. 2006.

GRAPHICS, AUDIO, AND VIDEO FILES:

CBS News. "MLK Jr.'s Legacy." CBS Evening News. 16 Jan. 2006. 24 Mar. 2006 <<http://www.cbsnews.com>> (Keyword: Videos/MLK).

Leyster, Judith. The Concert. "The Permanent Collection: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries." National Museum of Women in the Arts. 3 Aug. 2006. <<http://www.nmwa.org/collection/detail.asp?WordID=4968>>.

PODCASTS:

ESPN Radio Daily. "Favre Mulls Retirement." 30 Jan. 2006. ESPN Radio Podcast. 31 Jan. 2006 <<http://sports.edpn.go.com/espn/news/story?id=2092153>>.

BLOGS, NEWSGROUPS, MAILING LISTS, AND WIKIS (i.e. WIKIPEDIA ENTRIES):

Author Last name, First. "Subject line of message." Type of document [Online posting, Wikipedia entry, etc.]. Date of posting. Title of the Newsgroup. Access Day Month Year and URL.

Bartow, Ann. "Parody Is Fair Use!" 26 Mar. 2006. Blog posting. Sivacracy.net. 30 Mar. 2006 <<http://www.nyu.edu/classes/siva>>.

MLA In-text Citations

A “signal phrase” introduces a quotation in order to help the reader understand why it is important and how it fits into the rest of the paper. In the first example below, “Robertson maintains that...” is the signal phrase.

IF THE AUTHOR IS NAMED IN SIGNAL PHRASE:

If the author is named while introducing the quotation, or if the author can be easily assumed from surrounding material (as is often the case in literature papers), then only a page number is necessary in your citation:

Quotation:

Robertson maintains that “in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance...” (136).

Paraphrase:

According to Alvin Toffler, there have been two periods of revolutionary change in history: the agricultural revolution and the industrial revolution (10).

Note that the above source is paraphrased and not quoted. When paraphrasing specific information from a source, that source still must be cited in the paper and in the works cited list.

IF THE AUTHOR IS NOT NAMED IN SIGNAL PHRASE:

Quote:

It may be true that “in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance...” (Robertson 136).

Paraphrase:

There have been two periods of revolutionary change in history: the agricultural revolution and the industrial revolution (Toffler 10).

IF USING TWO OR MORE WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

In Double Vision, Northrop Frye claims that one’s death is not a unique experience, for “every moment we have lived through, we have also died out of into another order” (85).

The above example includes the article title in the signal phrase, and therefore only a page number is necessary in the citation. In the example below, the title of the article is not used, and so a recognizable abbreviation of the title belongs within the citation. The abbreviated title is not punctuated.

For Northrop Frye, one’s death is not a unique experience, for “every moment we have lived through, we have also died out of into another order (Double Vision 85).

IF USING AN INTERNET OR ELECTRONIC SOURCE WITH NO AUTHOR OR PAGE NUMBER:

Author Unknown:

Use the complete title in the signal phrase or an abbreviated title in the citation: (Lawmakers 2).

Page Number Unknown:

When the pages of a web source are fixed (as in PDF files) supply a page number. Although print-outs from websites sometimes show page numbers, MLA recommends treating them as unpaginated and allows the omission of the page number. If a web source numbers its paragraphs, give the abbreviation “par.” or “pars.” in the parentheses: (Smith par. 4).