



# MLA Citation Guide

## What is MLA format?

The Modern Language Association (MLA) has developed standards for paper preparation. These standards include rules for how your research paper should look and how your works cited should appear within the text and at the end of the paper.

## What is a Citation (or a list of works cited)?

When you write a research paper you must make a citation for everything in your paper that is not your own original idea. When you do this in the body of your paper, this is often called a **parenthetical or in text citation**. You should also include a **list of works cited** at the end of the paper. This list will appear in alphabetical order and include the information required to access everything you consulted when writing your paper (e.g. articles, books, websites, etc.).

MLA recommends double spacing your **list of works cited**. You should *not* indent the first line of a citation, but *should* indent the second line and each succeeding line by five spaces. Except for web pages & web sites, we do not recommend including a URL in your citation. Instead, include the location where you accessed the material and the last date of access.

## What is in this guide?

This guide shows basic MLA format, as well as in text and works cited examples for the following types of media: **Electronic, Print and Audio & Visual Resources**. Carefully observe the punctuation and capitalization in each sample. The numbers next to the headings indicate the access numbers from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) located in the library reference collection at LB2369 .G53 2009, or visit [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org).

## What is not in this guide?

This guide demonstrates how to prepare citations for the types of sources most commonly consulted. If you need to cite a source for which there is no example in this guide, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) located in the Library reference collection at LB2369 .G53 2009, or visit [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org). The following websites might help you with a citation: <http://citationmachine.net> or [www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite](http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite). **Always** proofread citations created by databases & electronic citation machines for accuracy.

## In Text and Parenthetical Documentation 6.2

When writing a paper, you must reference the works of others who have contributed to the body of your work. You can do this as an **in text or parenthetical citation**. Both methods require that you include both the author's name and the page number(s) on which the information can be found. Note that there is NO comma between the author and page number

### **An example of authors name used in text documentation 6.3:**

Tannen has argued this point (178-85)

### **Examples of parenthetical documentation 6.3:**

#### **Work by one author**

(Lastname xx-xx)

The point has already been argued (Tannen 178-85)

#### **Work by 2-3 authors**

(Firstauthorlastname, Secondauthorlastname and Thirdauthorlastname xx-xx)

Others hold the opposite point of view (e.g., Jakobson and Waugh 210-15).

...in fact "all utopian fiction whirls contemporary actors"... (Rabkin, Greenberg, and Olander vii).

#### **Work by 4 or more authors**

(Firstauthorlastname et al. xx-xx)

Their cluster on literacy is a resource for teaching the place of oral cultures in postbellum America (Lauter et al. 155-66).

#### **Corporate author 6.4.5**

(Commonly Abbreviated Corporate Name xx-xx)

The population of China around 1990 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (Natl. Research Council 15).

#### **Citing Indirect Sources 6.4.7**

(qtd. in Authorlastname xx)

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 450).

# Works Cited List

## Electronic Resources

### Web 5.6.2 and 5.7.18

*When citing the web, try to get as much traditional citation information as possible. We recommend you include the address (URL) of the specific web page you are citing and if the URL is very long, use the URL of the main web site. Be sure to always check with your instructor as their specifications may differ than those presented in this guide.*

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Web Page." *Title of Web Site*. Name of sponsoring Institution/Organization. Date of Publication or Last Revision. Type of Media. Date of Access. <URL >.

Isaacs, Julia, et al. "Kids' Share: An Analysis of Federal Expenditures on Children through 2008." Urban Institute. 9 Dec. 2009 Web. 12 Jan. 2010.  
<[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411989\\_kids\\_share.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411989_kids_share.pdf)>.

"Pet Shops: No Bargain for Animals." *Helping Animals*. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Web. 6 Feb. 2007.  
<<http://www.helpinganimals.com/Factsheet/files/FactsheetDisplay.asp?ID=36>>.

"Emma Goldman". *YouTube*. Google Inc. 27 Feb. 2007. Web. 21 March 2009  
<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTCMcO4WTjE>>.

Heinrich, Virginia and Amanda Mills. "Fahrenheit 451 and Banned Books Week." *MCTC Library: Our View from the Park*. Blog Talk Radio. 2 Oct. 2009. Podcast. 7 Oct. 2009  
<<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/MCTC-Library/2009/10/02/Our-View-From-the-Park>>.

"MLA Citation Guide" *Library: Citing Your Sources*. Minneapolis Community and Technical College Library. Jan. 2010. PDF file. 12 Jan. 2010.  
<<http://www.minneapolis.edu/library/pages/mlastyle.pdf>>.

Peters, Tom. "Absent at the Ebook Revolution." *ALA TechSource*. American Library Association. 15 June 2009. Web. 15 Nov. 2009. < <http://www.alatechsource.org/blog/2009/06/absent-at-the-ebook-revolution.html> >.

### **Scholarly Article from an Online Journal 5.6.3**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Journal Article." *Title of Journal* Volume#.Issue# (Date of Publication): xx-xx. Web. Date of Access. <URL>.

Rieger, Oya Y. "Search Engine Use Behavior of Students and Faculty: User Perceptions and Implications for Future Research." *First Monday: Peer Reviewed Journal of the Internet*. 14.12 (2007): n. pag. Web. 18 Dec. 2009.  
<<http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/2716/2385>>

### **Scholarly Journal Article from an Online Database 5.6.3**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Journal Article." *Title of Journal* Volume#.Issue# (Date of Publication): xx-xx. *Name of the Periodical Database*. Web. Date of Access.

Lindner, Andrew M. "Among the Troops: Seeing the Iraq War through Three Journalistic Vantage Points." *Social Problems*. 56.1 (2009): 21-48. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 12 Jan. 2009.

Kull, Stephen, Clay Ramsay and Evan Lewis. "Misperceptions, the Media, and the Iraq War." *Political Science Quarterly* 118.4 (2003/2004): 569-598. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 6 Feb. 2006.

Declercq, Eugene R., et al. "Listening to Mothers II: Report of the Second National U.S. Survey of Women's Childbearing Experiences." *Journal of Perinatal Education* 16.4 (2007): 9-14. *Alt HealthWatch*. Web. 15 Feb. 2008.

*For resources with more than 3 authors, you may list only the first author followed by et al. If including all the authors, list them in the order that they appear on the title page.*

### **Article from an Online Reference Resource (non-encyclopedia) 5.6.2**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Reference Resource*. Date of Publication: Page Numbers of Article (if available). *Database Name*. Web. Date of Access.

Katel, Peter. "Minimum Wage." *CQ Researcher*. 16 Dec. 2005: 1053-1076. *CQ Researcher Online*. Web. 1 Feb. 2007.

"Transgender Rights." *Issues & Controversies On File*. 24 May 2002. *Issues & Controversies @FACTS.com*. Web. 1 Feb. 2007.

#### **Encyclopedia Article from an Online Reference Database 5.6.2**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Encyclopedia*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. *Database Name*. Web. Date of Access.

"Minimum Wage." *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*. Detroit: Gale, 2005. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 2 Feb. 2007.

*No author listed because the article was unsigned.*

#### **E-book 5.6.2 sec. c**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. *Title of Ebook*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. *Name of Database or Service*. Web. Date of Access.

Gold, John Robert, and George Revill. *Representing the Environment*. New York: Routledge, 2004. *NetLibrary*. Web. 7 Feb. 2007.

#### **Magazine Article from an Online Database 5.6.4**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Magazine Article." *Title of Magazine* Date of Publication: xx-xx. *Name of the Periodical Database*. Web. Date of Access.

Delves, Donald P. "How Much Pay . . . for How Much Performance?" *Across the Board* July-Aug. 2004: 14-18. *MasterFILE Premier*. Web. 5 Feb. 2007.

#### **Newspaper Article from an Online Database 5.6.4**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Newspaper Article." *Title of Newspaper*. Date of Publication, Edition, Section xx. *Name of Newspaper Database*. Name of Service. Web. Date of Access.

Levy, Paul. "Minneapolis Gets Top Shelf in Literacy Study; St. Paul is Ranked No. 16, But Experts Say National Report's Books Don't Add Up." *Star Tribune*. 4 Aug. 2004, Metro ed.: B1. *ProQuest Newspapers*. Web. 6 Feb. 2007.

Kifner, John. "Police in Chicago Slay 2 Panthers." *New York Times*. 5 Dec. 1969: 1+. *Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851-2003)*. Web. 6 Feb. 2007.

## Print Resources

### Scholarly Journal Article 5.4.2

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Journal Article." *Title of Journal* Volume#.Issue# (Year of Publication): xx-xx. Print.

Frye, Robert Vaughn. "Therapeutic Communities: A Therapeutic Bridge." *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs* 36.2 (2004): 265-271. Print.

### Newspaper Article 5.4.5

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Newspaper Article." *Title of Newspaper* Date of Publication, Edition, Section xx. Print.

Madrick, Jeff. "If Higher Education Is So Important to the Economy, Why Is Its Financing Being Cut More Than That of Other Large Programs?" *New York Times* 5 Aug. 2004, late ed.: C2. Print.

*If article is NOT printed on consecutive pages, place the first page number with a "+", as in "C6+".*

### Magazine Article 5.4.6

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Magazine Article." *Title of Magazine* Year of Publication: xx-xx. Print.

Roddick, Anita. "There Is a Human Being Behind that Label." *Ecologist* July-Aug. 2004: 23-27. Print.

### Book with an Editor 5.5.1

Editorlastname, Editorfirstname, ed. *Complete Title of Work*. Edition [if specified]. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.

Davis, Carol M., ed. *Complementary Therapies in Rehabilitation*. 2nd ed. Thorofare, NJ: SLACK, 2004. Print.

Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, ed. *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex*. Cambridge, Mass: South End Press, 2007. Print.

#### **Book by a Single Author 5.5.2**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. *Complete Title of Work*. Edition [if specified]. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.

Ruggiero, Vincent Ryan. *The Art of Thinking: a Guide to Critical and Creative Thought*. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007. Print.

#### **Book with Two or More Authors 5.5.4**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname, and Authorfirstname Authorlastname. *Complete Title of Work*. Edition [if specified]. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.

Herman, Edward S., and Noam Chomsky. *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1988. Print.

Adovasio, J. M., Olga Soffer and Jake Page. *The Invisible Sex: Uncovering the True Roles of Women in Prehistory*. New York: Smithsonian Books, 2007. Print.

Bourdieu, Pierre et al. *The Weight of the World: Social Suffering in Contemporary Society*. Stanford, Ca: Stanford University Press, 1999. Print.

*For resources with more than 3 authors, you may list only the first author followed by et al. If including all the authors, list them in the order that they appear on the title page.*

#### **Chapter in an Edited Book or Work in an Anthology 5.5.6**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Chapter." *Title of Book*. Ed. Editorfirstname Editorlastname. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. (xx-xx). Print.

Haybron, D.M. "Philosophy and the Science of Subjective Well-Being." *The Science of Subjective Well-Being*. Ed. Michael Eid and Randy J. Larsen. New York, NY: Guilford Press, 2008. (17-43). Print.

### **Article in a Reference Book 5.5.7**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Encyclopedia*. Ed. Editorfirstname Editorlastname. Edition. Volume Number [if more than one]. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.

Bedau, Hugo Adam. "Civil Disobedience." *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics*. Ed. Ruth Chadwick. Vol. 1. San Diego: Academic Press, 1998. Print.

Randall, Margaret. "Barbara Kingsolver 1955-." *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Jeffrey W. Hunter. Vol. 130. Detroit: Gale Group, 2000. Print.

### **Book with Translator 5.5.11**

Authorlastname, Authorfirstname. *Complete Title of Work*. Trans. Translatorfirstname Translatorlastname. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.

Korn, Fadumo and Sabine Eichhorst. *Born in the Big Rains: A Memoir of Somalia and Survival*. Trans. Tobe Levin. New York: Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2006. Print.

### **Multivolume Work 5.5.14**

Editorlastname, Editorfirstname, ed. *Title of Encyclopedia*. Edition. Number of Volumes. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.

Chadwick, Ruth, ed. *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics*. 4 vols. San Diego: Academic Press, 1998. Print.

## **Audio Visual and Other Resources**

### **Sound Recording 5.7.2**

Lastname, Firstname [of the artist, performer, composer, or conductor, depending on which person you wish to emphasize]. "Title of Specific Track." *Title of Sound Recording*. Name of Publisher or Manufacturer, Date of Publication. Medium.

Madison, Otis. *Ballot Access: Race and the U.S. Electoral System..* National Radio Project, 2001. Audiocassette.



Hill, Joe. *Don't Mourn—Organize!: Songs of Labor Songwriter Joe Hill*. Cambridge, Mass.: Rounder, 1990. CD.

### 🔊 VHS or DVD Recording 5.7.3

*Film Title*. Dir. Directorfirstname Directorlastname. [Optionally, you could add Screenwriter and/or Producer's Name here]. Original Year of Release. Distributor, Year of Current Release. Medium.

*Bioterror*. Dir. Kirk Wolfinger. Prod. and Writer Matthew Collins. WGBH Education Foundation, 2002. Videocassette.

*Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media*. Dir. and Prod. Mark Achbar and Peter Wintonick. 1992. Zeitgeist Films, 2002. DVD.

### 🔊 Specific Person Associated with a VHS or DVD Recording 5.7.3

Lastname, Firstname, title/position. *Film Title*. (Optionally, you could add the Screenwriter and/or Producer's Name here). Distributor, Year of Release. Medium.

Schaffer, Deborah, editor. *The Wobblies*. Iracus Films, First Run, 1979. VHS.

### 🔊 Interview – Published or Broadcast 5.7.7

Intervieweelastname, Intervieweefirstname. Interview by [Interviewersfirstname Interviewerlastname]. "Interview Title." *Title of Program*. Station or Network. Program Producer. Day Month, Year of Interview. Medium.

Poremski, Molly. Interview by Virginia Heinrich and Amanda Mills. "Molly Porenski Talks Digital Libraries." *Our View from the Park*. BlogTalk Radio. 9 Sept. 2009. Web.

### 🔊 Personal Interview 5.7.7

Intervieweelastname, Intervieweefirstname. Personal Interview. Day Month, Year of Interview.

Baratta, Walter L. Personal Interview. 30 Oct. 2009.

## Works Cited

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009.