CLRC Writing Skills Workshop

MLA Citation

Presenters:
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Student Learning Outcomes

After attending this workshop, students should be able to do the following:

- Identify information needed for MLA Citations.
- Locate and follow MLA guidelines.
  - Incorporate in-text citations according to MLA guidelines.
  - Create a works cited page according to MLA guidelines.
Why Cite?

Academic papers require you to use and document outside sources in order to:

- Lend validity to your argument
- Allow readers to find out further information on the topic
- Give credit for intellectual property and avoid plagiarism
When to Cite

You must cite if you:
- Use the exact words from a source
- Express the same idea in your own words
- Refer to information (facts, statistics, examples) you found in a source

You don’t need to cite if:
- The information is common knowledge
- The source is a widely shared public source—e.g., the Bible or the U.S. Constitution

When in doubt, use a citation!
How to Cite: Two Parts of a Citation

Citations give your reader two important kinds of information:

- Exactly where in your paper you have relied upon information from each source (In-text Citation)
- All the bibliographic information they would need to find the source themselves (Works Cited)
How to Cite: Two Parts of a Citation

In text (citation appears in the body of your paper):

The original theories of Native American migration to North America are “too simplistic” to explain “the rapid genetic diversification of native peoples throughout the Americas” (Meltzer 34).

Works Cited entry (Works Cited List appears at the end of your paper):

MLA Citations: Two Parts of Every Citation

In text

Gives reader all the info they need to find the source themselves

Tells reader where you found the information you are using
Integrating In-Text Citations

Information you need:
- Author’s name
- Page #

Things to consider:
- Quoting and paraphrasing
- Author name in signal phrase or author name in reference.
Integrating Sources: Quoting and Paraphrasing

- **Quoting**: using the author’s exact words and offsetting them with *quotation marks*. Be sure to introduce it in order to provide context.
  - According to Dr. Ray Williams, an important psychologist, “students favor homework over more strenuous activities” (54).

- **Paraphrasing**: putting the author’s information into your own words, changing the sentence structure of the original quote.
  - The author, a psychologist, argues that doing homework is considered preferable to sports (Williams 54).
What information you put in the in-text parenthetical reference depends upon what you have included in your sentence.

If you include the author’s name in your sentence, you do not need to repeat it in your reference.
Example:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Or

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).
Activity I

- Working with the person next to you, complete Activity I on the worksheet to practice identifying the information you need for in-text citations.

- Raise your hand if you have a question or need help.
How to create a Works Cited List in MLA?

Information you need for your Works Cited list.

1. Author(s), editor(s), compiler(s), or translator(s)
2. Title
3. Publication city
4. Publisher / sponsor
5. Publication date
6. Page numbers
7. Medium
8. Date accessed
Example of a book you use for your paper
Identify information you need for your Works Cited entry

Title: The TROUBLE with PHYSICS
Subtitle: The Rise of String Theory, the Fall of a Science, and What Comes Next
Author: Lee Smolin
Publisher: HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
Publication city: BOSTON • NEW YORK
Publication year: 2006
For book/ebook entry, in general, list

Author(s), title and subtitle (italicized), publication city, publisher, publication year. database name (italicized). medium. date accessed.

Works Cited


Example of an article you find in a database
Identify information you need for your Works Cited entry:

- **Title**
- **Author(s)**
- **Volume & issue #s**
- **Page #**
- **Type of resource**
- **Database title**
- **Magazine title**
- **Publication date**
For journal/magazine entry, in general, list

Author(s), article title (in quotation marks), journal title (italicized), volume number, issue number, publication year (in parentheses)/publication date (day, month, year), page numbers, database title (italicized), medium, and access date.

Works Cited


Example of a webpage you use for your paper
Identify information you need for your Works Cited entry

Website title

Webpage title

Author?

Publisher/sponsor

Publication date
For webpage entry, in general, list

Author(s), webpage title (in quotes), website title (in italics), publisher/sponsor, publication date, medium, date accessed.

Works Cited

Activity II

- Working individually or in pairs, follow the instructions for Activity II
- Use your own sources, or those on the following pages.
- Identify the information you need for a Works Cited entry.
- Use the form to practice formatting Works Cited entries.
Activity II
Cite this book in MLA format

Parenting Stress

Kirby Deater-Deckard

Yale University Press New Haven and London
4. An initial evaluation of a mindful parenting program.

By: Altmaier, Elizabeth; Maloney, Raelynn. Journal of Clinical Psychology, Dec2007, Vol. 63 Issue 12, p1231-1238, 8p, 3 Charts; DOI: 10.1002/jclp.20395; (AN 27391757)

Subjects: PARENTING; PARENTHOOD; CHILD rearing; FAMILY life education; FAMILY relations; PARENT & child; DIVORCE -- Psychological aspects; CHILDREN of divorced parents; BORDERLINE personality disorder

Database: Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection

Add to folder  Relevancy: ■■■■■■■■

PDF Full Text (94KB)
Activity II

Cite this web page in MLA format
Where to find MLA format online?
Luria Library website http://library.sbcc.edu
Where to find MLA format online?
Luria Library website http://library.sbcc.edu
MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources (Web Publications)

Summary:
MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This resource, updated to reflect the MLA handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th ed.) and the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing (3rd ed.), offers examples for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the Works Cited page.

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MLA lets electronic sources as Web-Publications. Thus, when including the medium of publication for electronic sources, list the medium as Web.

It is always a good idea to maintain personal copies of electronic information, when possible. It is good practice to print or save Web pages or, better, using a program like Adobe Acrobat, to keep your own copies for future reference. Most Web browsers will include URL/electronic address information when you print, which makes later reference easy. Also, you might use the Bookmark function in your Web browser in order to return to documents more easily.

Important Note on the Use of URLs in MLA

MLA no longer requires the use of URLs in MLA citations. Because Web addresses are not static (i.e., they change often) and because documents sometimes appear in multiple places on the Web (e.g., on multiple databases), MLA explains that most readers can find electronic sources via title or author searches in Internet Search Engines.

For instructors or editors who still wish to require the use of URLs, MLA suggests that the URL appear in angle brackets after the date of access. Break URLs only after slashes.

Getting Further Assistance

- The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* is available to look at in the library and at the Writing Center.
- Visit the Purdue OWL website online: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/)
- MLA handouts and additional handbooks are available from both the Writing Center and the library.
One-on-One Help...

The Library can help you with:

- Finding sources
- Evaluating credibility of sources
- MLA and APA citation format

Luria Library Hours: M-Th 7:30-10, F 7:30-4:30, Sat 12-5, Sun 10-10

The Writing Center can help you with:

- Assignment analysis
- Thesis development and outlining
- Organizing research information
- Integrating quotations into paper
- MLA and APA citation format

Writing Center Hours: M-Th 9-7, Fri 9-3
Upcoming CLRC Workshops

- **Writing Skills Workshops:**
  APA Citation—Thursday, May 8th

- **Learning Skills Workshops:**
  Stress Management—Thursday, May 15th
Thank you

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