

## MLA CITATION GUIDELINES

This handout is **a brief introduction** to the most commonly used citations from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition* (2009). For more information, please consult the MLA Handbook or a handbook like *The Writer's Resource*. Note that there are differences from the previous edition including the notation of the source medium (print or web) and the exclusion of URLs from the citation.

### MLA Parenthetical Citations

Whenever you use information or ideas from another text in your paper, you must indicate what work you used and where in the text you found it (page number or paragraph number). Parenthetical citations are used in conjunction with the Works Cited list. Author and page number should go in parenthesis after the idea, paraphrase, or quote from a source. If there is no author, use the first item of the Works Cited list (article or website name, etc).

#### Typical reference: single author

In medieval art appreciation, "the attitude of the observer is of primary importance" (Robertson 136).

#### Author name in text

In medieval art appreciation, Robertson states that "the attitude of the observer is of primary importance" (136).

#### A work by two or three authors (*Write out all last names*)

The death penalty is not warranted because of all the innocent people who have been found on death row (Jacobsen and Waugh 210).

#### A work by two or three authors' in text (*Write out all last names in text*)

Jacobsen and Waugh note that the death penalty is not warranted because of all the innocent people who have been found on death row (210).

#### A work by more than three authors (*Only list the first author, followed by et al or write out the last names of each author*)

The European powers believed they could change the fundamentals of Moslem existence (Bull et al. 395).

#### A work in multiple volumes (*If more than one volume is listed in works cited page, include volume number: page number*)

The French Revolution had a great influence on William Blake (Raine 1:52).

#### A work without an author (*Use a shortened version of the title beginning with the first word on works cited page*)

Ralph Ellison is "a writer of universal reach" ("Death" A18).

#### An indirect source (*Use the abbreviation qtd. in*)

Wagner stated that myth and history stood before him "with opposing claims" (qtd. in Thomas 65).

#### Same information from more than one work (*Separate references with a semicolon*)

The Brooklyn Bridge has been used as a subject by many American artists (McCulloch 144; Tashjian 58).

#### Two or more authors with same last name (*Include first initial; if first name initial is shared write out first name*)

Crime is on the rise (R. Wishoff 115). Yet some believe "it's not [increasing]" (C. Wishoff 76).

#### An article in a reference database (*Titles of works without authors that appear in something larger [a book, magazine, newspaper, reference database] always appear in quotation marks*)

Through innovative research and design, Honda is a contender in the hybrid vehicle industry ("American Honda").

**An article in an online journal** (*Journal citations include the last name of the author; if the source lacks page numbers, use a paragraph or section number, or omit numbering in your citation*)

Among recent trends in youth music culture, perhaps none has been so widely reviled as the rise of a new generation of manufactured “teenybopper” pop acts (Wald, par. 1).

**A personal site** (*Always use the author, rather than the title, of the site*).

My name is John Johnson and this is my homepage (Johnson).

**A scholarly project or professional website**

The goal of the Victorian Women’s Writer’s Project is to produce highly accurate transcriptions of works by British women writers of the 19th Century (*Victorian*).

**A direct quote which runs more than four lines** (*Indent entire quote two tabs [1 inch] and double space with no quotation marks. Note that the punctuation comes before the reference here.*)

The pseudo autobiographical narration typical of the picaresque tradition is shown here:

My true name is so well known in the records, or registers, at Newgate and in the Old Bailey, and there are some things of such consequence still depending there relating to my particular conduct, that it is not to be expected I should set my name or the account of my family to this work. (Defoe)

## MLA WORKS CITED PAGE

If a portion of the information shown below does not exist for your source, omit it. Note: when you cite in MLA format, use a hanging indent (shown below). For space reasons, the citations here are not double-spaced but citations in a paper should be. Note how dates are written (10 Oct. 2009).

### ➤ PRINT SOURCES

**Books:**

**Author’s name (last name, first name for first author ONLY). Title of Book. Editor, Translator, or Compiler. Edition used. Number of volume(s) used. Name of series. City of Publication: Name of publisher, (Year of publication). Page numbers. Medium of Publication (Web or Print).**

**One author:**

Johnson, Roberta. *Gender and Nation in the Spanish Modernist Novel*. Nashville: Vanderbilt UP, 2003. Print.

**Two or more authors:**

Rabkin, Eric S., Martin Greenberg, and Joseph Olander, eds. *No Place Else But Right Here With Me and My Good Friends*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 1983. Print.

**Two or more books by the same author (three hyphens indicate same author):**

Gilbert, Sandra M. *Emily’s Bread*. New York: Norton, 1984. Print.

-- -. *Ghost Volcano*. New York: Norton, 1995. Print.

**An ORIGINAL Entry in an Anthology or Compilation:**

Hurston, Zora Neale. “Sweat.” *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. Ed. Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Nellie Y. McKay. New York: Norton, 1997. 999-1007. Print.

**A PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED Entry in an Anthology or Compilation:**

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself*. 1845. *Slave Narratives*. Ed. William L. Andrews and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. New York: Lib of America, 2000. 267-368. Print.

**Periodicals:**

**Author's name. "Title of Article." *Name of Periodical* (no punctuation) Series number or name (if applicable), Volume number (if applicable), Issue number (if applicable), Date of publication (do not precede date with a comma if the date comes directly after the name of the periodical): Page number(s). Supplementary information. Medium of Publication (Web or Print).**

**Magazine Article:**

Amelar, Sarah. "Restoration on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street." *Architecture* Mar. 1998: 146-150. Print.

**Newspaper Article:**

Boyar, Jay. "The Art of Bad Film Criticism." *Orlando Sentinel* 7 Jan. 2000: C4+. Print.

**Scholarly Journal Article, Continuous Pagination:**

Most, Andrea. "We Know We Belong." *PMLA* 113.3 (1998): 77-89. Print.

**Interviews:**

**Name of person interviewed (last name first). Type of Interview. Date of Interview.**

Anderson, Paul T. Personal Interview. 20 Dec. 1999.

➤ **ONLINE SOURCES**

**Article from a Scholarly Journal:**

**Author's last name, first name. "Title of article." *Title of Journal* (date of publication): pages. Web. Date accessed.**

Flanagan, Roy. "Reflections on Milton and Ariosto." *Early Modern Literary Studies* (22 Feb 1997): n. pag. Web. 3 April 2007.

**Article in an Online Database:**

**Author's last name, first name. "Title of Article." *Title of journal/ periodical* Volume and issue number (Date of publication): pages of article. *Name of subscription service*. Web. Date accessed.**

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture* 10.3 (2000): 78-83 *Project Muse*. Web. 5 June 2008.

**Article in an Online Newspaper:**

**Author's last name, first name. "Title of Article." *Title of online newspaper* Date posted. Web. Date accessed**

Tyre, Peg. "Standardized Tests in College?" *Newsweek* 16 Nov. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

**Entire Professional Site:**

***Title of Site*. Institution sponsoring Web page. Date of last update. Web. Date accessed.**

*NeilGaiman.com*. Harper Collins Publishers. 2003. Web. 13 August 2004.

**Online Government Publication:**

**Name of the Government. Name of the agency [abbreviate if necessary]. *Title of the publication*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year published. Web. Date accessed.**

Great Britain. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food. *Our Countryside, the Future: A Fair Deal for Rural England*. London: HMSO, 2000. Web. 5 September 2009.

**Works Only on the Web:**

**Author's last name, first name. Title of work [italicized if the work is independent; in roman type and quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work]. Title of overall Web site. Version or Edition. Publisher or sponsor of the site, Date of publication. Web. Date accessed.**

Lessig, Lawrence. "Free Debates: More Republicans Call on RNC." *Lessig 2.0*. N.p., 4 May 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

**Works on the Web Cited with Print Publication Data:**

**Author's last name, first name. Title of work. Original publication data [Source. Volume. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date, etc.]. Page numbers. Title of overall Web site. Web. Date accessed.**

Bierce, Ambrose. "Academy." *The Devil's Dictionary*. *The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce*. Vol. 7. New York: Neale, 1911. N. pag. *The Ambrose Bierce Project*. Web. 15 May 2008.

**Works on the Web Cited with Publication Data for Another Medium besides Print: Author's last name, first name. Title of work (italicized). Original source information [Date. Source]. Title of overall Web site. Web. Date accessed.**

Currin, John. *Blond Angel*. 2001. Indianapolis Museum of Art. *IMA: It's My Art*. Web. 9 May 2007.

For more information, please refer to:

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th Ed. (2009).
- The Purdue Online Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>