

MLA Citation Style

Commonly used for: Liberal Arts and Humanities

Why Cite?

- Citing sources is the only way to use other people's work **without plagiarizing**.
- The readers of your work need citations to find out more about your ideas and where they came from.
- Citing sources shows the amount of research you've done.
- Citing sources strengthens your work by lending outside support to your ideas.

Info You Need (if available)

Author/Editor(s)	Article name	Title (article/book/website)	Version/Edition	Publisher Info
Page number(s)	Date accessed	URL (without https://)	DOI	Container: (Anything that is part of a larger body of works, e.g. collection of short stories/tv episode, etc.)

In-Text Citations (Author-page method)

- Author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text.
- The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.

Examples: (one author)

- **Wordsworth** stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (**263**).
- Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (**Wordsworth 263**).
- **Wordsworth** extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (**263**).

More Situations:

Multiple Authors

- 2 authors: List the authors' last names in the text or in the parenthetical citation.
- 3 or more authors: List only the first author's last name, and replace the additional names with et al.

Examples:

- The authors claim that surface reading looks at what is "evident, perceptible, apprehensible in texts" (**Best and Marcus 9**).
- The authors claim that one cause of obesity in the United States is government-funded farm subsidies (**Franck, et al. 327**).

Internet Sources

- Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name).
- You do not need to give paragraph numbers or page numbers based on your Web browser's print preview function.
- Unless you must list the website name in the signal phrase in order to get the reader to the appropriate entry, do not include URLs in-text. Only provide partial URLs such as when the name of the site includes, for example, a domain name, like *CNN.com* or *Forbes.com* as opposed to writing out <http://www.cnn.com> or <http://www.forbes.com>.

Corporate Author

- When a source has a corporate author, it is acceptable to use the name of the corporation followed by the page number for the in-text citation.
- You should also use abbreviations (e.g., nat'l for national) where appropriate, so as to avoid interrupting the flow of reading with overly long parenthetical citations.

No known author - print

- When a source has no known author, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name.
- Place the title in quotation marks if it's a short work (such as an article) or italicize it if it's a longer work (e.g. plays, books, television shows, entire Web sites) and provide a page number.

Multiple Citations

- To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon:

Examples:

- . . . as has been discussed elsewhere (**Burke 3; Dewey 21**).

Works Cited Page

- Separate page labeled "Works Cited," double spaced, same margins as rest of paper
- The word or phrase you use in your in-text citations must be the first thing that appears on the left-hand margin of the corresponding entry in the Works Cited List.

General:

Author Names

- Entries are listed alphabetically by the author's last name (or, for entire edited collections, editor names). Author names are written last name, first name; middle names or middle initials follow the first name.
 - e.g: Halpert, James and Beesley, Pamela, M.

Capitalization and Punctuation

- Capitalize each word in the titles of articles, books, etc, but do not capitalize articles (the, an), prepositions, or conjunctions unless one is the first word of the title or subtitle:
 - Examples: *Gone with the Wind*, *The Art of War*, *There Is Nothing Left to Lose*
- Use italics (instead of underlining) for titles of larger works (books, magazines) and quotation marks for titles of shorter works (poems, articles).

Work with no known author

- Alphabetize works with no known author by their title; use a shortened version of the title in the parenthetical citations in your paper.

More than one work by an author

- If you have cited more than one work by a particular author, order the entries alphabetically by title, and use three hyphens in place of the author's name for every entry after the first.
 - Example: Burke, Kenneth. *A Grammar of Motives*. [...]
---*A Rhetoric of Motives*. [...]

Citation Examples:

Scholarly Article from database

- Cite articles from online databases (e.g. LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR, ScienceDirect) and other subscription services as containers -- provide the title of the database italicized before the DOI or URL. If a DOI is not provided, use the URL instead. Date of access optional.
 - Example:
Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96. *ProQuest*, doi:10.1017/S0018246X06005966. Accessed 27 May 2009.

Scholarly Article from website

- An online-only journal might not have page numbers. Include URL (permalinks preferable).
 - Example:
Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, vol. 6, no. 6, 2000, pp. 595-600, wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/6/6/00_article. Accessed 8 Feb. 2009.

Book

- Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.
 - Example:
Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. MacMurray, 1999.

A Page on a Website

- List the author or alias if known, followed by the information about the entire website. Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink. Date of access (if applicable).
 - Examples:
"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview.

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*, www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html. Accessed 6 July 2015.

Article in online Magazine

- Provide the author name, article name in quotation marks, title of the web magazine in italics, publisher name, publication date, URL, and the date of access.
 - Example:
Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*, 16 Aug. 2002, alistapart.com/article/writeliving. Accessed 4 May 2009.

Adapted from: owl.english.purdue.edu, style.mla.org, plagiarism.org

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