

MLA Style Manual

A Citation Guide

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2003. **Ref Desk 808.02 G35m 2003**

Format of the Research Paper

- Margins should be one inch at the top and bottom and on both sides of the text.
- The first word of a paragraph is indented one-half inch (5 spaces) from the left margin.
- Double-space all text, including quotations, notes, and the works cited. (p.133)
- There is no need for a title page. Your name, your instructor's name, the course number and date (each on separate lines) belong one inch from the top of the first page, flush with the left margin and double-spaced.
- Double-space again and center the title. **DO NOT UNDERLINE YOUR TITLE OR PUT IT IN QUOTATION MARKS OR TYPE IT IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.** Underline only the words you would usually underline in the text. No period after the title or after any heading in the paper. (p.133)
- All pages (including the first) are numbered consecutively throughout the paper. The number is placed in the upper, right-hand corner. Type your last name before the page number. Do not use the abbreviation p. for page or add a period, a hyphen, or any other symbol. (p.134)

See example below of the first page of a research paper:

	Nelson 1
Barbara Nelson	
Professor Little	
Music 120	
8 May 2004	
Ellington's Adventures in Music and Geography	
In studying the influence of Latin American, African, and Asian music on modern	
1	

In-Text Citations

Citing a source in the text enables the reader to identify the source of information through the **alphabetically** arranged **Works Cited** page at the end of your paper. Within the text of the paper, the last name of the author and the page number where the quote or paraphrased information can be found are inserted in the text at the appropriate point. This brief citation should match a full citation on the Works Cited page.

A quotation of more than four typed lines should be started on a new line. All lines of the quote should be indented. The type is double space. There are no quotation marks and a colon introduces the quote. If there is a paragraph break in the quote, indent the paragraph in your paper. The page number or pages referenced should follow the quote (p.114).

Example of in-text citation:

He stated, "The `placebo effect,'... disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner" (Smith 276), but he did not clarify which behaviors were studied.

One Work by a Single Author (p.240)

In a recent study of reaction times (Smith 198)...**OR** Smith, in a study of reaction times (198)...

No author, (p.248) you should include the first word of the title in quotation marks or underlined if it is a book.

In a recent study of reaction time ("Study" 198) -- **this is an article.**

In a recent study of reaction time (Report 198) -- **this is a book.**

No page numbers as in a Web-based journal resource. (p.245) (p.242):

When a source has no page numbers or any other kind of reference numbers, no number can be given in the parenthetical reference. The work must be cited in its entirety.

In citing an entire source (print source, non-print source such as film, tv program, electronic publication) that has no pagination or other reference markers, it is preferable to include in the text the name of the person that begins the corresponding entry in the works-cited list.

Book: Fukuyama's Our Posthuman Future includes many examples of this trend.

Articles in Periodicals: But Katie Thompson has offered another view.

Miscellaneous Non-Print Sources: Kurosawa's Rashomon was a good example of a Japanese film.

Electronic Sources: Michael Joyce was one of the first to write fiction in hypertext.

Works Cited

This page should continue the page numbering of the text and there should be a double space from the title of the section to the first entry. The words "Works Cited" should be centered one inch down from the top of the page (p. 145). Each entry should be flush with the left margin, double space and indent any entries that are more than two lines. The following is a list of what some references might look like. For more examples see pages 147-235.

Book - Single Author (p. 147)

Bernstein, Tom. The Careful Writer: A Modern Guide to English Usage. New York: Atheneum, 1965.

Edited Book (p.152)

Letheridge, Sharon, ed. Bilingual Education: Teaching English as a Second Language. New York: Praeger, 1980.

Encyclopedia or Dictionary (p. 160)

Kerman, Joseph. "Beethoven, Ludwig Van." The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. 6th ed. 1980.

Book, no author or editor (p.163)

College Bound Seniors. Princeton, NJ: College Board Publications, 1980.

Journal Article - One Author (p. 184)

Pavio, Andrew. "Perceptual Comparisons Through the Mind's Eye." Memory & Cognition 3 (1975): 635-647.

Journal Article - Two Authors (p.183)

Becker, Lillian, and Charlie Seligman. "Welcome to the Energy Crisis." Journal of Social Issues 37.2 (1981): 1-7.

Newspaper (p.185)

Schwartz, Jane. "Obesity Affects Economic and Social Status." Washington Post 10 Sept.

1993: A1, A4.

Television (p.194)

"Tobacco Industry." Sixty Minutes. Narr. Morley Safer. CBS. New York. 20 Dec. 1994.

A Film or Video Recording (p. 198)

It's a Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and

Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946.

Painting, sculpture, or photograph

Cassat, Mary. Mother and Child. Wichita Art Museum. American Painting: 1560-1913. By John

Pearce. New York: McGraw, 1964. Slide 22.

Citing Indirect Sources (p. 252)

In the Works Cited list, cite the secondary source only (the book or article you are reading). In the text, name the original work and give a citation for the secondary source, including the abbreviation qtd. for quoted.

(qtd. in Boswell 2:450)

In your Works Cited, the full citation would be for Boswell, the secondary source, not for the original source.

Personal Communication

Give the name of the person interviewed, or the author of a letter or email. State the type of communication and give the date it was conducted or written.

Rowling, J.K. Personal Interview. 12 May 2002.

Morrison, Toni. Email to the author. 17 May 2001.

Citing Electronic Resources (p.207-235)

A citation for an electronic source should include the following types of information whenever possible.

- Author's name
- Title of document
- Information about publication (website, journal, book)
- Information about electronic format (database, website)
- Access information (date, location, URL)

Online book (p.218):

Taylor, George. The French Revolution and the London Stage, 1789-1805. Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press, 2000. High Point University, High Point, NC. 7 March 2006

<<http://netlibrary.com>>.

Entire Internet Site (p.218):

History Channel.com. 2002. History Channel. 14 May 2006

<<http://www.historychannel.com/>>.

Online Encyclopedia (p. 220):

"Traffic control." Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. 2000. Encyclopaedia Britannica. 8 August

2002 <<http://www.eb.com:180/bol/topic?eu=120030&sctn=15>>.

Journal or Magazine in a provider's database (p.222):

Gibbon, Frank. "Fast new train raises high-speed rail hopes." U.S. News & World Report 15 Mar.

1999: 12. Academic Index ASAP. InfoTrac. Smith Library, High Point University.

7 Feb. 2000 <http://www.infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/hpu_main/>.

Online Journal or Magazine (p.221):

Brainard, Jeffrey. "Clinton Seeks to Lift Spending Caps to Increase Financing for University-

Based Research." Chronicle of Higher Education 8 Feb. 2000. 10 Feb. 2000

<<http://www.chronicle.com/daily/2000/02/2000020802n.htm>>.

Single page on website

“City Profile: San Francisco.” CNN.com. 2002. Cable News Network. 14 May 2002

<<http://www.cnn.com/TRAVEL/atevo/city/SanFrancisco/intro.html>>.

Online Government Document (p.220):

Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Librarians." Occupational Outlook Handbook Home Page.

By Megan Barkume. Feb. 2000. 12 Feb. 2000 <<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos068.htm>>.

The MLA website on citing electronic resources is available at:

http://www.mla.org/style_faq4

Updated 10/17/07