

MLA Style Manual

A Citation Guide

This is the style established by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA). MLA style is used primarily in the humanities, especially in the fields of language and literature. The examples presented here are just a starting point. For additional examples, including sample papers, please refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition*. Copies of the handbook are available behind the Reference Desk on the 2nd floor of Smith Library and at the University Center Learning Commons.

When formatting citations in MLA Style, remember to follow the MLA Formatting Guidelines below. For general formatting rules for papers in MLA style, see section 4 of the *MLA Handbook*.

The purpose of citation is to allow readers to access the information being cited. Proper citation also ensures that you are not committing plagiarism or misusing sources, which is in violation of the University Honor Code.

MLA FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Format of the Research Paper

1. Margins should be one inch at the top and bottom and on both sides of the text.
2. The first word of a paragraph is indented one-half inch (5 spaces) from the left margin.
3. Double-space all text, including quotations, notes, and the works cited.
4. 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.
5. Double-space again and center the title. Do not underline or italicize your title or put it all in quotation marks or boldface or type it in all capital letters. Italicize only the words you would usually italicize in the text. No period after the title or after any heading in the paper.
6. 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.

Format of Works Cited and In-text Citations

1. All MLA citations should be double spaced.
2. The first line should be flush with the left margin. All other lines should be indented.
3. Use the author's full name as it appears on the title page, not an abbreviation. This may differ from the database where you originally found the citation.
4. Capitalize every important word in the title. (See *MLA Handbook* 3.6.1)

5. Italicize titles of books and names of journals; put article titles in quotation marks. (3.3)
6. If the book has a subtitle, put a colon between the main title and the subtitle. Subtitles must be included in the citation; use the title information provided on the title page of the book, not the spine or cover.
7. If the place of publication lists several cities, use the first city given; do not include the state, province, or country after the city name. (5.5.2)
8. Publishers' names should be shortened by following the guidelines provided. (7.5).
9. Include the medium of publication consulted. For example, "Print" or "Web." (5.4.1, 5.5.1, 5.6.2, 5.6.3, 5.6.4, etc.)

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. Each entry should be flush with the left margin and double spaced. Indent any entries that are more than two lines. Organize the works cited **alphabetically** by author's last name. If a work has no author, use the title of the article, book chapter, or book. For more examples, see the indicated *MLA* section.

BOOK – SINGLE AUTHOR (5.5.2)

Harman, Claire. *Jane's Fame: How Jane Austen Conquered the World*. New York: Holt, Henry & Company, Inc., 2010. Print.

BOOK – TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (5.5.4)

Broer, Lawrence R., and Gloria Holland. *Hemingway and Women: Female Critics and the Female Voice*. Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama P, 2002. Print.

EDITED BOOK (5.5.3)

Conard, Mark T., ed. *The Philosophy of the Coen Brothers*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2009.

Tannen, Deborah, and Muriel Saville-Troike, eds. *Perspectives on Silence*. Norwood: Ablex, 1985. Print.

Note: Use (ed.) or (eds.) to indicate editor(s). For major reference works with a large editorial board, list the name of the lead editor, followed by et al.

ESSAY OR CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK (5.5.6)

More, Hannah. "The Black Slave Trade: A Poem." *British Women Poets of the Romantic Era*. Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472.82. Print.

BOOK – NO AUTHOR OR EDITOR (5.5.9)

The Holy Bible. Wheaton: Crossway-Good News, 2003. Print. Eng. Standard Vers.

DICTIONARY ENTRY OR ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE (5.5.7)

Full publication information is not necessary for well-known reference books like Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (just include edition number and year). The definition entry or article title, with or without an author (depends on source), is contained within quotation marks.

"Noon." Def. 4b. *The Oxford English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. 1989. Print.

Keane, John. "Paine, Thomas." *Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment*. Ed. Alan Charles Kors. Vol. 3. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. Print.

JOURNAL ARTICLE – SINGLE AUTHOR (5.4.2)

Toker, Leona. "Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities and the French Revolution." *Dickens Quarterly* 27.2 (2010): 154-157. Print.

JOURNAL ARTICLE – TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (5.4.2)

Rush, Kendra and Kelly Lipski. "Teaching Social Skills Through Children's Literature." *Illinois Reading Council Journal* 37.4 (2009): 20-25. Print.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (5.4.5)

McKay, Peter A. "Stocks Feel the Dollar's Weight." *Wall Street Journal* 4 Dec. 2006: C1+. Print.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION (5.5.20)

United States Cong. House. Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack. *Hearings*. 79th Cong., 1st and 2nd sess. 32 vols. Washington: GPO, 1946. Print.

Note: For more information on how to cite government publications, see this [guide](#).

TELEVISION OR RADIO BROADCAST (5.7.1)

"The Phantom of Corleone." Narr. Steve Kroft. *Sixty Minutes*. CBS. WCBS, New York, 10 Dec. 2006. Television.

FILM OR VIDEO RECORDING (5.7.3)

North by Northwest. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. Perf. Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Mason, Martin Landau. MGM, 1959. Film.

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, OR PHOTOGRAPH (5.7.6)

Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn. *Aristotle with a Bust of Homer*. 1653. Oil on canvas. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

LEGAL SOURCE (5.7.14)

Brown v. Board of Educ. 347 *U. S. Reports* (17 May 1954): 483-500. Print.

ELECTRONIC/ONLINE BOOK (5.6.2c)

Pettitt, Claire. *Patent Inventions: Intellectual Property and the Victorian Novel*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. *NetLibrary*. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

ENTIRE INTERNET SITE (5.6.1; 5.6.2)

Salda, Michael N., ed. *The Cinderella Project*. Vers. 1.2. U of Southern Mississippi, Oct. 2005. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA (5.6.2)

"Gogh, Vincent van." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2010. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

JOURNAL OR MAGAZINE ARTICLE IN A DATABASE (5.6.4)

Frasher, Ramona S. "Boys, Girls, and Pippi Longstocking." *The Reading Teacher* 30.8 (1977): 860-863. *JSTOR*. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

ONLINE JOURNAL OR MAGAZINE (5.6.2)

Scham, Michael. "Don Quixote and the Art of Laughing at Oneself." *Cervantes: Bulletin of the Cervantes Society of America* 29.1 (2009): 31-55. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

In-Text Citations

Citing a source in the text enables the reader to identify the source of information through the Works Cited page at the end of your paper. Within the text, 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.

ONE WORK BY A SINGLE AUTHOR (6.1)

In a recent article on Shakespeare (Smith 198)....

Smith, in a recent article on Shakespeare (198)...

NO AUTHOR (6.4.4)

ARTICLE: In a recent article on Shakespeare (“Bard” 198)...

Note: In this case, use the title of the article in your parenthetical reference.

BOOK: In a recent work on Shakespeare (*Bard* 198)...

Note: In this case, use the title of the book in your parenthetical reference.

NO PAGE NUMBERS (6.4.1)

International espionage was as prevalent as ever in the 1990s (“Decade”).

Fukuyama’s *Our Posthuman Future* includes many examples of this trend.

The utilitarianism of the Victorians “attempted to reduce decision-making about human actions to a ‘felicific calculus’” (Everett).

Note: If you cite from a publication that has no page numbers, try to use the author’s name in the text rather than in the parenthetical reference.

QUOTE OR PARAPHRASE (6.4.2)

Litvak calls Winter’s mumbling a “labor of disarticulation” (167).

One author calls Winter’s mumbling a “labor of disarticulation” (Litvak 167).

Between 1968 and 1988, television coverage of presidential elections changed dramatically (Hallin 5).

INDIRECT SOURCES (6.4.7)

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an “extraordinary man” (qtd. in Boswell 2: 450).

Note: Whenever possible, try to get your material from the original source, not a secondary one. Sometimes, however, only an indirect source is available. If what you quote or paraphrase is itself a quotation, put the abbreviation *qtd. in* before the indirect sources you cite in your parenthetical reference. In your works cited list, the full citation would be for the secondary source, not the original source.

Still Need Help?

- **Call us** at 336.841.9101 or 336.841.9002
- **Email us** at reference@highpoint.edu
- **Chat with us** at AskHPULibrary from the library’s home page: library.highpoint.edu