



Modern Language Association (MLA) 7th Edition Citation Guide



What is MLA?

The **Modern Language Association** (MLA) Style is commonly used for academic writing in a wide range of subjects and disciplines, particularly in the arts and humanities. Most citations include three key elements: (1) author's name, (2) title or source, and (3) publication information. The proper style associated with each of these includes:

- Underlining or *italicizing* titles. (Italics are preferred, but not required, for bibliographies published on the Internet.)
- Following elements (e.g., names, titles, publication cities, etc.) with a period and one space.

Additional elements (e.g., number of volumes, edition numbers, or Web addresses and date of access) may be required. On your References page, make sure you list each of your sources separately. Arrange them alphabetically by author's last name or the title if there is no author.

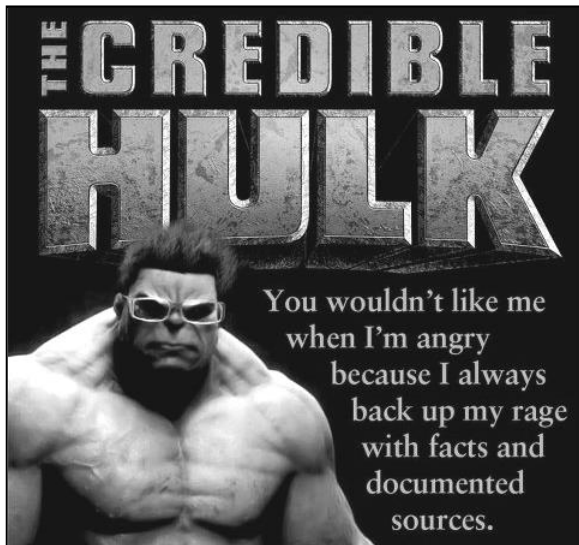
NOTE: This guide is not meant to be “all-encompassing”. There may be additional sources that you find that are not listed here. If this is the case, please ask Dr. Hartnell, an English teacher, or see a librarian for the proper MLA way to cite it.

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

SEVENTH EDITION

MLA

When & Why Do I Cite Stuff?



When doing research of *any* kind, one of the most important things you must do is cite the sources you are using. You need to cite all information that “isn't common knowledge”. This means that unless this information is so basic that most people know it, you must cite from where it came.

For example, you would NOT have to cite the following sentence:

Ex: There were many Native American tribes living in North America before the arrival of the European settlers.

Most people already know that; as such, it would NOT need to be cited.

However, you WOULD have to cite this next sentence:

Ex: There were 1,286 different Native American languages.

Because this sentence contains a specific statistic that no ordinary person would know, it must be cited. Proper citation within the text of your paper and at the end with your References page is critical to your grade. Teachers of all subjects and from around the globe will always harp on you about **plagiarism**. A research paper lacking citations (both throughout and at the end) can be accused of plagiarism.

There are three ways to properly cite your sources. **Ms. Birtcher** provides details on the next page:



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a. In-text citations: With these, you directly state the author's name and the title of the source in the sentence you are citing. *For example:*

Ex: In *The Llamas of Peru*, Robert Jones tells us that the gestation period for llamas is 11 months.

b. Parenthetical citations: With these, you identify the source by using () at the end of a sentence. If this is a printed source (book, encyclopedia, etc.), you need to provide the page number. *For example:*

Ex: The gestation period of llamas is 11 months (Jones 118).

c. Direct quotes: If you wish to quote the text directly, just add quotation marks around the exact wording from your source. Again, if available, include the page number. (*NOTE: When you use a quote that is longer than four lines, it needs to be pulled out and set apart from the regular text.*) Two examples:

Ex: Jones stated, "At birth, a baby llama can weigh between 9.1 kilograms and 14 kilograms" (118).

Ex: "At birth, a baby llama can weigh between 9.1 kilograms and 14 kilograms" (Jones 118).

NOTE: All citations MUST match up with an item shown on the References page.

REMEMBER! Ms. Birtcher says, "NEVER use a website's URL as an in-text citation!"

How Do I Cite Stuff?

Now that you know WHEN to cite, it is time for you to know HOW to cite. And despite efforts to drill this information into your head every time you do a paper, we all know you have to relearn it every year. So, to make it easier, the rest of this guide contains the update MLA citation "rules". (A HUGE thank you goes out to **Mrs. Baumann** and **Ms. Hines** for providing Dr. Hartnell with these "rules"!)

NOTE: The newest edition of MLA, the 7th Edition, has added "Publication Medium" to your citation entries. This means you now have to indicate what kind of source you used. Do this by selecting one of the following: **Print** (book, encyclopedia, etc.), **Television, CD**, or **Web**.

Book with One Author:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Publication Medium.

Ex: Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. New York: Penguin, 1987. Print.

NOTE: If there is no author, start with the book title.

*This is NEW with
the 7th Edition!*

Book with Two or More Authors:

Last Name, First Name, and First Name Last Name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Publication Medium.

Ex: Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Learner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Boston: Allyn, 2000. Print.

NOTE: Only the first author's name is last name first. All other authors' names are first name first.



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A Single Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Book*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Page Range of Entry. Publication Medium.

Ex: Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*. Ed. Ben Rafoth. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2000. 24-34. Print.

Article in a Reference Book (e.g., Encyclopedias & Dictionaries):

"Title of Article." *Title of Reference Book*. Edition. Year of Publication. Publication Medium.

Ex: "Ideology." *The American Heritage Dictionary*. 3rd ed. 1997. Print.

Article in a Magazine:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: Pages. Publication Medium.

Ex: Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time* 20 Nov. 2000: 70-71. Print.

Article in a Scholarly Journal:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume. Issue (Year): Pages. Publication Medium.

Ex: Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's *Bashai Tudu*." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* 15.1 (1996): 41-50. Print.

Article in a Newspaper:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* Day Month Year: Pages, Publication Medium.

Ex: Brubaker, Bill. "New Health Center Targets Country's Uninsured Patients." *Washington Post* 24 May 2007: B01. Print.

Personal Interview:

Last Name of Person interviewed, First Name. Personal interview. Date of interview.

Ex: Purdue, Pete. Personal interview. 1 Dec. 2000.



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A Page on a Website:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Page." *Name of Website*. Publisher or Sponsor, Date of Publication. Publication Medium. Day Month Year accessed. <URL optional>.

Ex: "Hawaii Drunk Driving Statistics." *Alcohol Alert*. KeRo, 2009. Web. 17 Mar. 2009.

Ex: "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow.com*. eHow, n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2009.

Ex: Landau, Elizabeth. "CDC: Swine Flu Viruses in U.S. and Mexico Match." *CNN Health.com*. Cable News Network, 25 Apr. 2009. Web. 17 June 2009.

Ex: Lehrman, Lewis E. *Lincoln at Peoria*. Lincoln Institute, n.d. Web. 17 June 2009.

Ex: "Norwegian Pirate Whaling Fleet." *Sea Shepherd*. Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, 2009. Web. 17 June 2009. <<http://www.seashepherd.org/whales/Norway.html>>.

NOTE: Use n.p. if no publisher name is available and n.d. if no publishing date is given. If no author is given, start with the title of the web page. URL is optional. Use URL if it is helpful in locating your source. Do NOT use if it is extremely long. For online publications, refer to the print format for the source and add the necessary web and date of access information.

An Article from an Online Database (or other Electronic Subscription Services):

NOTE: Cite articles from online databases (e.g., Gale, LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR, ScienceDirect, etc.) and other subscription services just as you would print sources. In addition to this information, provide the title of the database (*italicize it*), the publication medium, and the date of access.

Magazine

Junge, Wolfgang, and Nathan Nelson. "Nature's Rotary Electromotors." *Science* 29 April. 2005: 642-44. *Science Online*. Web. 5 Mar. 2009.

Scholarly Journal

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal* 50.1 (2007): 173-96. *ProQuest*. Web. 27 May 2009.

Book: Single Work from an Anthology

Fotuhi, Majid. "Exercise May Help Prevent Alzheimer's." *Alzheimer's Disease*. Ed. Adela Soliz. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2006. *Contemporary Issues Companion*. *Gale Opposing Viewpoints In Context*. Web. 9 July 2011.