

Modern Language Association (MLA)

CITATION STYLE

for writing research papers

When writing a research paper, you must cite all sources that you have consulted in your research. You must acknowledge when you are using the ideas, information, arguments, phrases or direct quotes of another. Not to do so is referred to as plagiarism.

- Consult with your instructor regarding the required citation style for your course.
- The documentation style recommended by the Modern Language Association (MLA) is used primarily in the arts and humanities (English, history, philosophy, etc.) and is preferred by the majority of scholarly journals in languages and literature.
- The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers REF LB 2369 M57 6th edition (2003) is an authoritative guide to using MLA citation style. Circulating copies are also available in the General Collection. Frequently asked questions about MLA style and other information is available on the MLA official web site <<http://www.mla.org/style>>.
- For sample pages of a research paper in MLA style, see pp. 320-321 of the MLA Handbook.
- While not intended to replace the MLA Handbook, this guide provides some common examples.

MLA documentation style has two essential components:

1. Parenthetical (in-text) references in the body of your paper
2. The list of works cited at the end of your paper

1. Parenthetical (In-Text) References

In MLA documentation style, you acknowledge your sources by inserting brief parenthetical citations into your text that refer to an alphabetical list of works cited that appears at the end of your paper. Consider this example:

For Ibsen, the tragedy of modern times is the existentialist's tragedy (Durbach 73).

The parenthetical citation "(Durbach 73)" tells the reader that the information in this sentence was taken from page 73 of a work by an author named Durbach. The reader could then refer to your alphabetically arranged list of works cited page to see the complete reference:

Durbach, Errol. A Doll's House: Ibsen's Myth of Transformation. Twayne's Masterwork Studies

75. Boston: Twayne, 1991.



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Examples are supplied below first for the parenthetical (in-text) reference (I) and then for the corresponding works cited reference. (W)

Hint: If the following examples do not assist you, consult chapter 6 of the MLA Handbook.

Citing an entire work—periodical article

But academic Katie Trumpener has challenged this view. (I)

Trumpener, Katie. "Memories Carved in Granite: Great War Memorials and Everyday Life."

PMLA 115 (2000): 1096-1103. (W)

Citing part of a work—book

Shakespeare's King Lear has been called a "comedy of the grotesque" (Frye 237). (I)

Frye, Northrup. Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1957. (W)

Citing part of a work—anthology entry

Another strange passage appears in the opening words of Isabel Allende's short story "Toad's Mouth" (83). (I)

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth". Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. A Hammock beneath the

Mangoes: Stories from Latin America. Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992.

83-88. (W)

Citing two or more works by the same author

Shakespeare's King Lear has been called a "comedy of the grotesque" (Frye, Anatomy 237). (I)

For Frye, one's death is not a unique experience (Double Vision 85). (I)

Frye, Northrup. Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1957. (W)

---. The Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion. Toronto: U of

Toronto P, 1991 (W)

Citing indirect sources

If you come across a quotation mentioned in a secondary source that you wish to use and you are not able to read the primary source, use qtd. in (quoted in) just before your indirect source.

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

450). (I)

Boswell, James. The Life of Johnson. Ed. George Birkbeck Hill and L.F. Powell. 6 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1934-50. (W)

Citing literary sources

Classic works of prose or religious texts require more information. A chapter number is helpful. Titles of famous literary works may be abbreviated.

(New Jerusalem Bible, Ezek. 1.5-10). (I)

The New Jerusalem Bible. Henry Wansbrough, gen. ed. New York: Doubleday, 1985. (W)

(Ham. 1.5.35-37) (I)

Shakespeare, William. Hamlet. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New York: Washington Square-Pocket, 1992. (W)

Citing a work with no page numbers – web site

To cite a source with no pagination, include in the text, rather than in a parenthetical reference, the name or title that begins the corresponding reference in the works cited list.

Voice of the Shuttle is a web site with many useful links for students. (I)

Voice of the Shuttle. 2002. U. of California, Santa Barbara. 8 July 2003
<<http://vos.ucsb.edu/>>. (W)

2. List of works cited

Create a separate page entitled “Works Cited”. Each source you have cited or referred to in your research must appear in your works cited list. Your works cited list should appear at the end of your paper, in alphabetical order by the *author's last name*. If there is no author, as in the case of a government report, alphabetize the source by the *first word in the title*.

Double-space your works cited page. Pay close attention to the punctuation, capitalization and underlining used in our examples. Indent five spaces on all but the first line. The appropriate section in the MLA Handbook is given beside each of our examples should you wish to seek further clarification.

Examples follow for books, articles and electronic sources. Pay particular attention to examples for articles retrieved from library subscription databases.

Examples:**See Full Chapter In:**

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers
REF LB 2369 M57 6th edition (2003)

Book by a single author**MLA 5.6.1**

Mitchell, John J. The Mental and Emotional Life of Teenagers. Calgary, AB.: Detselig Enterprises, 2001.

Note: Add the state or province if the city is not well known. Canadian provinces and American states are abbreviated according to MLA 7.3.

Book by two or more authors**MLA 5.6.4**

Woodcock, Kathryn, and Miguel Aguayo. Deafened People: Adjustment and Support. Toronto: U of Toronto Press, 2000.

Note: Only the first author's name is inverted--with the last name first. If there are more than three authors, you may name the first and then use et al (and others).

Gilman, Sander, et al. Hysteria beyond Freud. Berkeley: U of California P, 1993.

Government document**MLA 5.6.21**

Canada. Department of Justice. A Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice. Ottawa: Department of Justice Canada, 1998.

Book in translation**MLA 5.6.13**

Homer. The Odyssey. Trans. Carol Christensen and Thomas Christensen. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Work from an anthology**MLA 5.6.7**

Sagan, Carl. "The Abstractions of Beasts." The Norton Reader: An Anthology of Expository Prose 8th ed. Ed. Arthur M. Eastman. New York: Norton, 1992. 613-20.

Edition (meaning having an editor in addition to an author)**MLA 5.6.12**

Shakespeare, William. The Taming of the Shrew. Ed. G.R. Hibbard. Toronto: Penguin Books, 1968.

Canadian (or subsequent) edition**MLA 5.6.14**

McConnell, Campbell R., et al. Macroeconomics. 8th Canadian ed. Toronto: McGraw-Hill, 1999.

Multivolume work**MLA 5.6.15**

Sadie, Stanley, ed. The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. 20 vols. London: MacMillan, 1980.

Note: If you are using two or more volumes of a multivolume work, cite the total number of volumes.

Introduction (or preface or forward)**MLA 5.6.9**

Hopkins, Antony. Introduction. Larousse Encyclopedia of Music. Ed. Geoffrey Hindley. London: Hamlyn, 1971. 11-12.

Article in a familiar reference work (encyclopedia or dictionary):**MLA 5.6.8**

"Postmodernism." World Book Encyclopedia. 1998 ed.

Article or essay in a book that is a collection of works published previously. (Ex. Gale Reference Series)**MLA 5.6.7**

Roberts, Sheila. "A Confined World: A Rereading of Pauline Smith." World Literature Written in English 24 (1984): 232-38. Rpt. in Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism. Ed. Dennis Poupard. Vol. 25. Detroit: Gale, 1988. 399-402.

Note: Add Rpt. in (Reprinted in) to supply data from the new publication after citing the earlier one.

Films or Videos**MLA 5.8.3**

Begin with the title, underlined, and include director, distributor and year of release. You may also include other data between the title and distributor.

It's a Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed. RKO, 1946.

Performance

Hamlet. By William Shakespeare. Bard on the Beach, Vancouver, BC. 4 Aug. 2002.

Citing Articles from Print Periodicals

Hint: Periodicals are published regularly, at fixed intervals.

Article in a journal with continuous pagination**MLA 5.7.1**

Marais, Ida. "The Effect of Spatial Attention on Memory Scanning." Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology 52 (1998): 50-55.

Note: No issue number given, only the volume number.

Article in a journal that pages each issue separately**MLA 5.7.2**

Lupul, Manoly R. "The Establishment of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta: A Personal Memoir." Canadian Ethnic Studies 26.2 (1994): 88-111.

Note: Issue numbers must be included to identify the source. In the above example 26 refers to the volume number and 2 is the issue number.

Article in a magazine**MLA 5.7.6**

Blum, Deborah. "Face It!" Psychology Today Sept.- Oct. 1982: 32+.

Note: When citing a magazine published every month or every two months, give the month or months and year. If an article is from several non-sequential pages, list only the first page number followed by +.

Article in a newspaper**MLA 5.7.5**

When citing a newspaper, provide the name as it appears on the masthead, omitting any introductory article (a, an, the). If the city of publication is not part of the newspaper's name, add it in square brackets after the name without underlining it. For nationally published newspapers, you need not add the city of publication.

Birmingham, John. "Wilson Wants Aboriginal History Taught in Schools." Province [Vancouver] 14 Oct. 1999: A6.

Review**MLA 5.7.7**

Kauffmann, Stanley. "Toward the Shadows." Rev. of Iris, dir. Richard Eyre. New Republic 11 Feb. 2002: 26-27.

Citing Electronic Sources

Because Internet sources tend to be less stable than print counterparts, **more** information is needed on the works cited page. This includes the date of access and the URL <web address>.

Hint: MLA style requires the use of angle brackets to enclose the <URL>.

Article in an online periodical (* not a subscription database)

Niquette, Manon. "Meet Me at the Fair: Sociability and Reflexivity in Nineteenth-Century World Expositions." Canadian Journal of Communications 22.1 (1997). 23 Oct. 2003
<<http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwpress/jrls/cjc/BackIssues/22.1/niquette.html>>.

Note: 23 October, 2003 is the date the item was accessed.

Article in an online magazine**MLA 5.9.4c**

Brooks, David. "The Culture of Martyrdom." Atlantic Online June 2002. 24 Sept. 2003

<<http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/2002/06/brooks.htm>>.

Online newspaper or newswire**MLA 5.9.4b**

Allen, Christina. "Giving Chinese Medicine a Shot." CNN Interactive 7 Oct. 1999. 23 Oct. 2002

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

Scholarly periodical article**MLA 5.9.4a**

Sohmer, Steve. "12 June 1599: Opening Day at Shakespeare's Globe." Early Modern Literary

Studies 3.1 (1997): 46 pars. 26 June 2003 <<http://www.shu.ac.uk/emis/03-1/sohmjuli.html>>.

Internet site**MLA 5.9.2**

Jane Austen Information Page. Ed. Henry Churchyard. 6 Sept. 2000. 15 June 2003

<<http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo.html>>.

Home page for a course**MLA 5.9.2a**

Smith, John. Professing Greatness. Course home page. Sept. 2003 – Apr. 2004. Dept. of English, Kwantlen Univ. College. 4 oct. 2003

<<http://www.kwantlen.bc.ca/~smithjAOR/ENGL1110/Index.htm>>.

Online government document**MLA 5.9.3c**

Canada. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. People to People, Nation to Nation:

Highlights from the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Ottawa:

The Commission, 1996. 29 Feb. 2003. <<http://www.inac.gc.ca/rcap/report/index.html>>.

E-mail communication**MLA 5.9.9j**

Jones, Jennie. "Re: Utopias." E-mail to Prof. Carl Sagan. 22 August 2003.

Works from Library Subscription Databases

MLA 5.9.7

Kwantlen Library subscribes to a number of article indexes and research databases which provide online access to full text journal, magazine and newspaper articles.

To cite an article derived from a library subscription service, complete the citation by stating the name of the database (underlined), if known; the name of the service; the name of the library or library system (with a city); and the date of access. If you know the URL of the service's home page, give it, in angle brackets, immediately after the date of access (as in the first example) or simply end with the date of access.

Literature Resource Center

Ingersoll, Earl G. "Margaret Atwood's Cat's Eye: Re-Viewing Women in a Postmodern World," Ariel: 22.4 (1991): 17-27. Literature Resource Center. Thomson Gale. Kwantlen University College Lib., Surrey, BC. 05 Oct. 2005 <<http://galenet.galegroup.com>>.

Academic Search Premier

Ray, Joan Klingel. "Austen's Northanger Abbey." Explicator 61.2 (2003): 79-81. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Kwantlen University College Lib., Langley, BC. 10 Sep. 2003.

Canadian Business and Current Affairs

Poole, Erik. "Their Home and Native Fish: Neskonlith Tradition Means a Brighter Future for Pacific Salmon." Outdoor Canada 27.4 (1999): 26- (3 pp). Canadian Business and Current Affairs. BC Electronic Library Network. Kwantlen University College Lib., Richmond, BC. 24 Aug.2003.

Hint: Some scholars in fields, such as, art, history and music, use endnotes or footnotes to document sources. This is discussed in Appendix B.1. of the MLA Handbook (pp. 298 – 312).