

Citing Your Sources - MLA Format Spring 2009

Not all sources are covered in this guide. If you don't find the example you need here, ask library staff for help.

Citing sources correctly allows you to give proper credit to the originator of the ideas or facts being used and allows the reader to assess the validity of the sources you've used and follow up by looking at those sources.

Cite information, facts, and ideas that are unique to a source and not common knowledge. Cite unique information whether it is quoted directly or paraphrased.

Citing Sources in the Body of Your Paper

- Use the author name if given. If there is no author, use the title or beginning of the title (example below).
 - Place the parenthetical reference at a pause in your sentence or at the end if possible, inside the closing period (unless it is a block quote, see examples).
 - The number in the parenthetical reference is the page number.
 - Note that no punctuation is used between the author's name and the page reference.
 - Note that direct quotations should be used only when necessary to enhance meaning and should be used sparingly. Your paper should be primarily in your voice, with most cited information paraphrased or summarized.
1. If you have one author, either name the author in your sentence or include the author in the parentheses:
 - Jane Tompkins calls the Western the "only true American entertainment form" (67).OR
 - The Western is the only American entertainment form that belongs to us (Tompkins 67).
 2. If the work has two or three authors, name them all in your sentence or include them in the parentheses:
 - Rico and Mano point out a number of books that are appropriate for quality multicultural education (83-90).OR
 - The authors point out a number of books that are appropriate for quality multicultural education (Rico and Mano 83-90).
 3. If the work has four or more authors use the first author's name and "et al.", (Latin for "and others"):
 - Medhurst et al. describe the relationship between Brezhnev and Nixon as "heated" (137).OR
 - The authors describe the relationship between Brezhnev and Nixon as "heated" (Medhurst et al. 137).
 4. If a corporation or institution is the author, use the author name, followed by the page reference. If it is a very long name, try to include the name in the text and use only the page number in the parentheses, so reading is not interrupted by an extended parenthetical reference:
 - According to a study sponsored by the National Research Council, the population of China around 1900 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (15).



5. When you use the name of a corporate author in the parentheses, shorten terms that are commonly abbreviated:
 - The population of China around 1900 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (Natl. Research Council 15).OR
 - Pre-retirement planning also has a measurable effect on stress levels (NIMH 22).

6. If there is no author, use the title of the source in your sentence or in parentheses. Use only the first few words if the title is long; use the full title if the title is short. Italicize the title if it is a book title and use "quotation marks" if it is an article:
 - Croatians are unhappy about the time when the country was part of the former Republic of Yugoslavia ("Croatia in Crisis" 26).OR
 - "Croatia in Crisis" maintains that Croatians are unhappy about the time when the country was part of the former Republic of Yugoslavia (26).OR
 - The filmmakers, on the other hand, clearly presented Mozart's death as murder (*Amadeus*).

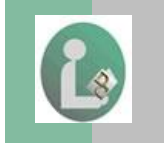
7. If you are quoting or paraphrasing something that is itself a quotation, put the abbreviation "qtd. in" (quoted in) before the secondary source you cite in your parenthetical reference:

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 450).

8. If citing an electronic full-text source in which pages are not apparent, use the author's name only (Tompkins). The Works Cited page entry will note that the source does not have page numbers. When citing PDF files that do show original page numbers, use the actual page numbers as shown in the examples above.

The Western is the only American entertainment form that belongs to us (Tompkins).

9. Short quotations (four typed lines in your paper or less) should be integrated into your own writing and surrounded by quotation marks. For example:
 - At the popular Sports Club, the heroine finds the "ubiquitous glass mugs of golden beer" (Lessing 135).OR
 - At the popular Sports Club, Lessing's heroine finds the "ubiquitous glass mugs of golden beer" (135).



10. Long quotations (more than four typed lines in your paper) should be integrated into your writing, but you should not use quotation marks. Instead, indent all of the quotation as a block. A colon usually introduces a block quote, but the context may require a different punctuation mark or none at all. For example:

- At the conclusion of the book, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions: The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other boys began to shake and sob too. (Golding 186)

OR

- At the conclusion of Golding's book, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions: The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other boys began to shake and sob too. (186)

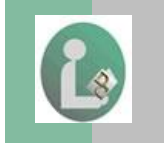
Citing Sources in Your Works Cited List

- The Works Cited list appears at the end of your paper, on its own page, with the title Works Cited (not bolded or underlined) centered on the top, and continuing the page numbers of the text.
- A Works Cited list should include only the sources referred to in your text.
- List entries in alphabetical order by the first author's last name
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of each entry 5 spaces.
- Double space all entries.
- Do not number entries.
- Do not add extra spaces between entries.
- Reverse the first author's name in citations; do not reverse subsequent author names.
- Leave one space after all punctuation in your citations, including colons, periods, and other concluding punctuation marks.
- If there is no author's name, alphabetize by title, including but ignoring leading articles (A, An, The). Titles are indicated by the use of *italics*. **Underlining is no longer acceptable in MLA style.**
- While database and online catalog printouts often do not capitalize book or article titles, the Works Cited page capitalizes all significant words in a title. For example, if the title in a printout is *A tale of two cities*, your citation title should be *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Print Books

1. The general format to follow for citing print books:
Last name, First name of author. The Book Title. Place of publication: Publisher's name, publication year. Print.
2. If you have a book with only one author:

Tompkins, Jane. *West of Everything: The Inner Life of Westerns*. New York: Oxford UP, 1992. Print.



3. If you have a book with two or three authors, (note that for multiple authors, only reverse the first author's name):

Rico, Barbara, and Sandra Mano. *American Mosaic: Multicultural Readings in Context*. Boston: Houghton, 1991. Print.

4. If you have four or more authors either name all the authors or name only the first author followed by "et al."

Stein, Norman, Mindy Lubber, Stuart L. Koman, and Kathy Kelly. *Family Therapy: A Systems Approach*.

Boston: Allyn, 1990. Print.

OR

Stein, Norman, et al. *Family Therapy: A Systems Approach*. Boston: Allyn, 1990. Print.

5. If the book has no author, begin with the title. Include but ignore leading articles (A, An, The) in the Works Cited list:

The Holy Bible. King James Version. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995. Print.

OR

The Times Atlas of the World. 9th ed. New York: Times, 1992. Print.

6. If you have an author that is a corporation or an institution:

American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-IV-TR*. 4th ed., text rev. Washington DC: American Psychiatric Association, 2000. Print.

7. If you have a book compiled by one or more editors, but with no signed articles or chapters:

Anaya, Rodolfo, and Francisco Lomeli, eds. *Aztlan: Essays on the Chicano Homeland*. Albuquerque: Academia-El Norte, 1989. Print.

8. If you have a book that is a one-volume anthology (collection), with signed articles or chapters and an editor or editors, start with the article author, then the article title, then the information about the book itself (note that multi-volume reference works are cited following the next example):

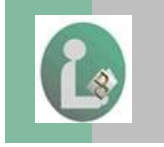
Davies, Phil. "Does Treatment Work? A Sociological Perspective." *The Misuse of Alcohol*. Ed. Nick Heather.

New York: New York UP, 1985. 158-77. Print.

9. If you are citing a multi-volume specialized encyclopedia or dictionary, begin with the article author and title. Include the number of volumes in the set. Page numbers are not necessary.

Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. Ed. Warren T. Reich. 5 vols. New York:

Macmillan-Simon, 1995. Print.



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10. If an article is from a non-specialized dictionary or encyclopedia, you needn't give full publisher information. If the article is signed, include the name of the author. If it is signed by initials, the author's full name will be spelled out elsewhere in the reference work (usually at the beginning or end) – find it by looking for a list of contributors. The first example given below is unsigned. The second is signed (J.M.M.).

"Mandarin." *The Encyclopedia Americana*. 2006 ed. Print.

AND

Mohanty, Jitendra M. "Indian Philosophy." *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropedia*. 2005 ed. Print.

11. If you are citing a previously published scholarly article in a scholarly collection, begin with the original publication information, then add the publication information about the collection itself:

Roberts, Shelia. "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. Print.

12. If you are citing a pro or con article from *Taking Sides* or other pro/ con book:

Popenoe, David. "The American Family Crisis." *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Social Issues*. Ed. Kurt Finsterbusch. Guilford, CT: McGraw Hill/Dushkin, 2006. 110-17. Print.

Print Government Documents

1. If you have a government document, treat the government agency as the author:

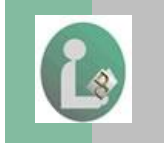
United States. Bureau of the Census. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*. Washington: GPO, 2008. Print.

2. If you have an ERIC document or report:

Mead, James V. *Looking at Old Photographs: Investigating the Teacher Tales that Novice Teachers Bring with Them*. ERIC Number ED346082. East Lansing, MI: National Center for Research on Teaching, 1992. Print.

3. If you have a pamphlet, use the same format you would for a book:

United States. Department of the Interior. National Park Service. *Ford's Theatre and the House Where Lincoln Died*. Washington: GPO, 1989. Print.



Audiovisual Sources

1. If you are citing a television program:

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

2. If you are citing a radio broadcast:

"Shakespearean Putdowns." Narr. Robert Siegal and Linda Werthheimer. *All Things Considered*. Natl. Public Radio. WNYC, New York, 6 Apr. 1994. Radio.

3. If you are citing a DVD, list basic information – the title, director, performers, original copyright year, distributor, year produced, and format:

Amadeus. Dir. Milos Forman. Perf. F. Murray Abraham, Tom Hulce, and Elizabeth Berridge. 1985. Warner Home Video 1997. DVD.

4. If you are citing an interview that is broadcast, taped, or published, include as much information as you have:

Updike, John. Interview by Scott Simon. *Weekend Edition*. Natl. Public Radio. WBUR, Boston. 2 Apr. 1994. Radio.

Personal Interviews

1. *If you have conducted a personal interview, include the name of the interviewee, the kind of interview (Personal interview, Telephone interview, E-mail interview, etc.) and the date or dates:*

Harrison, Patricia. Personal interview. 19 Feb. 1995.

Print Magazines, Journals, and Newspapers

- Periodical citations vary according to what type of periodical you are using.
- If you have more than one author, see the author examples under Books.
- Use a page range (39-59) only if page numbers are consecutive; if page numbers are not consecutive (have intervening pages), write only the first page number followed by a + sign.

1. If you have an article in a monthly magazine:

Lukacs, John. "The End of the Twentieth Century." *Harper's* Jan. 1993: 39+. Print.

2. If you have an article in a weekly magazine (like Time or Newsweek), include the day as well as the month:

Schiff, Stephen. "Muriel Spark between the Lines." *New Yorker* 24 May 1993: 36-43. Print.

3. If you have an article from a scholarly journal, include both the volume and issue numbers. In the example below, 13.4, 13 is the volume number and 4 is the issue number:

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Journal of Architectural Planning and Research* 13.4 (1981): 77-80. Print.



4. If you have an article in a newspaper in which the sections are lettered:

Sun, Lena H. "Chinese Feel the Strain of a New Society." *New York Times* 13 June 1993: A1+. Print.

5. If you have an article in a newspaper in which the sections are numbered:

Greenhouse, Linda. "Justices Plan to Delve Anew into Race and Voting Rights." *New York Times* 11 July 1993, sec. 1: 1+. Print.

6. If you have an unsigned article in a newspaper or magazine, begin with the title in quotes:

"Radiation in Russia." *U.S. News and World Report* 9 Aug. 1993: 40-42. Print.

7. If you have a book or film review, include "Rev. of" and the title of the work being reviewed:

Kermode, Frank. "Criticism without Machinery." Rev. of *Literary Reflections*, by R.W.B. Lewis. *New York Times Book Review* 11 July 1993: 16. Print.

Electronic Online Sources – Databases

- In general, follow the publication style for the kind of work you are citing, then add the final elements that distinguish it as an electronic source.
- If you are citing more than one author, see the Books section for more examples showing how to cite multiple names. If the article has no author, begin with the title.
- If you are citing a database that does not have an example below, follow the general format or ask library staff for help.
- If page numbers are not known, use N. pag.

1. The general format for databases:

Last name, First name of author. "The Title of the Article." Periodical name day month year of article: pages (if known). Name of database. Web. Day month year accessed.

2. Citing Magazine Articles from Databases:

The basic citation is the same as for print magazines, only the database information changes.

3. Citing a magazine in InfoTrac Expanded Academic ASAP:

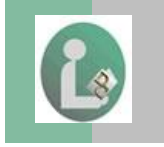
Schiff, Stephen. "Muriel Spark between the Lines." *New Yorker* 24 May 1993: 36-43. *Expanded Academic ASAP*. Web. 10 Mar. 2008.

4. Citing a magazine in FirstSearch Readers Guide Abstracts:

Baldauf, Sarah. "10 Ways Global Warming Could Hurt Your Health." *U.S. News & World Report* 15 Sept. 2008: N. pag. *ReaderGuideAbs*. Web. 14 Jan. 2009.

5. Citing Journal Articles from Databases:

The basic citation is the same as for print journals, only the database information changes.



6. Citing a journal in InfoTrac Academic OneFile (the volume number – 13 – and issue number – 4 – follow the journal title):

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Journal of Architectural Planning and Research* 13.4 (1981): 77-80.

Academic OneFile. Web. 6 Mar. 2008.

7. Citing a journal in FirstSearch WilsonSelectPlus:

Ferguson, Andrew. "Not Just Flat. (Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution – And How It

Can Renew America." *Commentary* 126.4 (2008): 51+. *WilsonSelectPlus*. Web. 14 Jan. 2009.

8. Citing Newspaper Articles from Databases

Citing a newspaper in NewsBank Michigan Newspapers:

Sternberg, Irene. "Natural Repellents Tell Mosquitoes to Buzz Off." *The Washington Post* 18 Aug. 2005: H.01.

NewsBank Michigan Newspapers. Web. 15 Aug. 2008.

Electronic Online Sources - WWW

- Omit the author name if it is not available.
- The title is in quotation marks if an article is part of a larger work; the title is *italicized* if it stands alone.
- *Web site name* is the name of the overall Web site if it is different from the title of the work being cited.
- The publisher or sponsor is the organization putting up the Web site; if there is no publisher/sponsor, use N.p.
- Include the publication date. If there is no date, use n.d.
- Include Web as the medium. Finish with the date accessed.
- Break a URL that goes to another line after a slash or before a period. Do not insert (or allow your word-processing program to insert) a hyphen at the break.

1. The general format for WWW citations:

Last name, First name of author. "The Title of the Article." WWW site name. Publisher or sponsor of the Web site, Day Month Year of publication. Web. Day Month Year accessed.

2. Citing a WWW article with an author and a site name:

Kessler, Glenn. "Surplus Plunges in New Forecast." *Washington Post*. Washington Post Company, 23 Aug.

2001. Web. 30 Aug. 2001.

3. Citing a WWW article with an author and no sponsor /publisher:

Barlow, Amy. "Jane Austen Redux." *JaneAustenforever.com*. N.p., 15 Apr. 2004. Web. 23 Aug. 2008.



4. Citing a WWW article that is not part of a larger work, with no author:

Guide to Quitting Smoking. American Cancer Society. American Cancer Society, 12 Jan. 2009. Web. 23 Aug. 2005.

5. Citing a WWW article with no author and no publication date:

"Rhythm Road – American Music Abroad." *Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*. U.S. Department of State, n.d. Web. 14 Jan. 2009.

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<http://www.qvcc.commnet.edu/library>
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