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## Library Guide

### MLA Style Guide

The Modern Language Association system of documentation

This guide is meant to offer a brief overview of MLA style and to offer some citation examples of the most commonly used sources. If your particular case is not covered here, use the basic forms to determine the correct format, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6<sup>th</sup> edition) located on Closed Reserve or in the Reference section (REF 808.02 G437ml), visit the MLA links on the Library's webpage, talk to your instructor, or consult the Library's other MLA guides: **MLA Bibliographic Format for Traditional and Online Newspaper Sources** or **MLA Style Guide for Online Resources**.

### Some general info about MLA Style:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Paper Format | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The paper should be double-spaced throughout with one inch margins.</li><li>■ If a quotation runs four or more lines in your paper, set it off from your text by beginning a new line &amp; indenting one inch. The block should be double-spaced and does not need quotation marks.</li></ul>   |
| Sources      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The bibliography begins with "Works Cited" centered at the top of a separate page.</li><li>■ Do not indent the first line of a citation, but do indent subsequent lines of an entry.</li><li>■ Items are alphabetized by last name. Alphabetize works with no author by the first significant word of the title.</li><li>■ When there is more than one author, invert the first author's name only, and use "and" between names.</li><li>■ Titles of journals, books, etc. should be underlined.</li></ul> |

**THESE EXAMPLES ARE SINGLE-SPACED HERE TO PRESERVE PAPER ONLY! DOUBLE-SPACE ENTRIES IN YOUR PAPER**

If no author is given for a web page or electronic source, start with and alphabetize by the title of the piece and use a shortened version of the title for parenthetical citations.

#### Books

Author(s). Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

#### Book with one author

Henley, Patricia. The Hummingbird House. Denver: MacMurray, 1999.

#### Two books by the same author

After the first listing of the author's name, use three hyphens and a period for the author's name. List books alphabetically.

Palmer, William J. Dickens and New Historicism. New York: St. Martin's, 1997.

---. The Films of the Eighties: A Social History. Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 1993.

#### Book with more than one author

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring. Boston: Allyn, 2000.

If there are more than three authors, you may list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (the abbreviation for the Latin phrase "and others") in place of the other authors' names, or you may list all the authors in the order in which their names appear on the title page.

#### Book with a corporate author

American Allergy Association. Allergies in Children. New York: Random, 1998.

#### Book or article with no author named

Encyclopedia of Indiana. New York: Somerset, 1993.

"Cigarette Sales Fall 30% as California Tax Rises." New York Times 14 Sept. 1999: A17.

For parenthetical citations of sources with no author named, use a shortened version of the title instead of an author's name. Use quotation marks and underlining as appropriate. For example, parenthetical citations of the two sources above would appear as follows: (Encyclopedia 235) and ("Cigarette" A17).

#### Anthology or collection

Peterson, Nancy J., ed. Toni Morrison: Critical and Theoretical Approaches. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997.

**A part of a book (such as an essay in a collection)**

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Collection. Ed. Editor's Name(s). Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pages.

**Essay in a collection**

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.

**Cross-referencing:** If you cite more than one essay from the same edited collection, you should cross-reference within your works cited list in order to avoid writing out the publishing information for each separate essay. Include a separate entry for the entire collection listed by the editor's name. For individual essays from that collection, simply list the author's name, the title of the essay, the editor's last name, and the page numbers. **For example:**

L'Eplattenier, Barbara. "Finding Ourselves in the Past: An Argument for Historical Work on WPAs." Rose and Weiser 131-40.

Peeples, Tim. "'Seeing' the WPA With/Through Postmodern Mapping." Rose and Weiser 153-167.

Rose, Shirley K., and Irwin Weiser, eds. The Writing Program Administrator as Researcher. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1999.

**Article from a reference book**

"Jamaica." Encyclopedia Britannica. 1999 ed.

**An article in a periodical (such as a newspaper or magazine)**

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Source Day Month Year: pages.

When citing the date, list day before month; use a three-letter abbreviation of the month (e.g. Jan., Mar.). If there is more than one edition available for that date (as in an early and late edition of a newspaper), identify the edition following the date (e.g. 17 May 1987, late ed.).

**Magazine or newspaper article**

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

Trembacki, Paul. "Brees Hopes to Win Heisman for Team." Purdue Exponent 5 Dec. 2000: 20.

**An article in a scholarly journal**

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal Vol (Year): pages.

"Vol" indicates the volume number of the journal. If the journal uses continuous pagination throughout a particular volume, only volume and year are needed, e.g. Modern Fiction Studies 40 (1998): 251-81. If each issue of the journal begins on page 1, however, you must also provide the issue number following the volume, e.g. Mosaic 19.3 (1986): 33-49.

**Essay in a journal with continuous pagination**

Allen, Emily. "Staging Identity: Frances Burney's Allegory of Genre." Eighteenth-Century Studies 31 (1998): 433-51.

**Essay in a journal that pages each issue separately**

Duvall, John N. "The (Super)Marketplace of Images: Television as Unmediated Mediation in DeLillo's White Noise." Arizona Quarterly 50.3 (1994): 127-53.

**Government publication**

United States Dept. of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health. Washington: GPO, 2000.

**Interview that you conducted**

Purdue, Pete. Personal Interview. 1 Dec. 2000.

**Advertisement**

Lufthansa. Advertisement. Time 20 Nov. 2000: 151.

**Television or radio program**

"The Blessing Way." The X-Files. Fox. WXIA, Atlanta. 19 Jul. 1998.

**Sound recording**

U2. All That You Can't Leave Behind. Interscope, 2000.