

## Citing Sources in MLA Style

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This is a brief overview of how to cite sources using Modern Language Association (MLA) style.

For more information, see:

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (available at the Library Reference Desk)
- Diana Hacker's *Research and Documentation Online*: <http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>
- Purdue University's *Online Writing Lab* - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

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### INTRODUCTION

In MLA style, you acknowledge your outside sources in two ways:

1. **Parenthetical citations.** When you use a direct quote, summarize another author's idea, or provide a fact that is not considered common knowledge, indicate where you got the information by providing the last name of the author and the page number on which the information was found:

Until the beginning of the nineteenth century, America's colleges remained quite small; in 1710, Harvard enrolled just 123 students (Lucas 109).

2. **List of works cited.** At the end of your paper, provide an alphabetized list of every source you referred to or "cited." Each entry must include certain key pieces of information, such as the author, title, and publisher, so that your readers can find your sources:

Lucas, Christopher J. *American Higher Education: A History*. New York: Palgrave, 2006. Print.

### FORMATTING THE PAPER'S TEXT, HEADING, AND TITLE

- **TEXT:** Double space your entire paper, including the heading and list of works cited. Use 1" margins.
- **HEADING:** Beginning in the top left, type your name, your instructor's name, the course number, and the date on separate lines. In the top right, ½" from top, insert your last name and the page number.
- **TITLE:** Do not use a title page. Center the title between the heading and the text; do not underline or italicize the title; do not add extra spaces between the heading and the title or the title and the text.

***For instructions on how to properly format your paper using Microsoft Word 2007, see page 8.***

## FORMATTING THE LIST OF WORKS CITED

Format the list of works cited as follows:

- At the end of your paper and at the top of a new page, center the title *Works Cited*. Leave a space between the title and first entry. Double-space the entire list.
- List entries alphabetically by authors' last names. If author is unknown, use title to determine placement.
- Start each entry at the left margin. After the first line, indent each subsequent line by ½ inch.

## FORMATTING CITATIONS

### I. BOOKS

#### BASIC FORMAT FOR A PRINT BOOK

Author's lastname, firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of publication:

Publisher, publish date. Medium of publication.

Fischer, Daniel. *Mission Jupiter: The Spectacular Journey of the Galileo*

*Spacecraft*. New York: Copernicus, 2001. Print.

#### Book by Two or Three Authors

Silverstein, Alvin, Virginia Silverstein, and Laura Silverstein Nunn. *AIDS: An ALL-*

*About Guide for Young Adults*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow, 1999. Print.

#### Book by Four or More Authors

Herman, Melanie L., et al. *Managing Risk in Nonprofit Organizations: A*

*Comprehensive Guide*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2004. Print.

#### Book with an Editor

Yancy, George, ed. *Cornel West: A Critical Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell,

2001. Print.

#### E-book

Author's lastname, first name. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, publish date.

*E-book vendor*. Web. Date of Access (Day, Month, Year).

#### Two or More Books by the Same Author

Steinbeck, John. *Cannery Row*. New York: Viking, 1986. Print.

---. *The Grapes of Wrath*. New York: Penguin Books, 2002. Print.

#### Work in an Edited Collection or Anthology

Author's lastname, first name. "Title of Work." *Title of Collection or*

*Anthology*. Ed. Editor's name. Place of publication: Publisher, year.  
Page numbers. Medium of publication.

Runciman, Steven. "Byzantium and the Crusades." *The Crusades: the Essential Readings*. Ed. Thomas F. Madden. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2002. 121-145. Print.

#### **Opposing Viewpoints Series**

Treat essays from books in the *Opposing Viewpoints* series as works in an edited collection. (See above)

Siegel, Fred. "Cities will Begin to Resemble Suburbs." *Urban America: Opposing Viewpoints*. Ed. Laura K. Egendorf. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2005. 203-209. Print.

#### **Article in a Reference Book**

Frijda, Nico H. "Expressive Behavior." *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. New York: Macmillan, 1968. Print.

*Note: For unsigned encyclopedia articles, begin the entry with the article title.*

## II. PRINT PERIODICAL ARTICLES

*For periodical articles found using an electronic database (such as an EBSCO database), see section III.*

A "periodical" is a publication that is published at regular intervals. For example, *People* magazine is a periodical, because it comes out every week. Scholarly journals, such as the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, are also considered periodicals; they are usually published monthly or quarterly.

#### **BASIC FORMAT FOR A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE**

Lastname, firstname. "Title of Article." *Name of Journal*. Volume.Issue

(Year): Page numbers. Medium of publication.

Fleisher, Richard. "Explaining the Change in Roll-Call Voting Behavior of Southern Democrats." *Journal of Politics* 55.2 (1993): 327-341. Print.

#### **Monthly Magazine Article (unsigned)**

"Regional Reports." *Parks & Recreation* Feb. 2003: 86-89. Print.

#### **Weekly Magazine Article (signed)**

Peterson, Ivars. "All Square: A Surprising, Far-Reaching Overhaul for Theories about Quadratic Equations." *Science News* 11 Mar. 2006: 152-153. Print.

**Daily Newspaper Article**

Van Derbeken, Jaxon. "Police Pin Hopes on Cameras." *San Francisco Chronicle* 15 Aug.

2006: B3. Print.

*Note: For unsigned newspaper articles, begin the entry with the article title.*

**III. ARTICLES FROM AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE**

When citing articles that you found in an online subscription database like EBSCO or JSTOR, you must include information about the database, so that your reader can go back and retrieve your article.

**BASIC FORMAT FOR A DATABASE ARTICLE:**

Author's lastname, firstname. "Title of Article." *Name of Periodical* Volume

Number.Issue Number\* (Publication date):\* page number(s).\*\* *Name of Database.*

Medium of publication. Date of access (day, month, year).

*\*Exceptions for magazines: omit volume and issue number; no parentheses around publication date.*

*\*\*Use n.pag. (not paginated) if there are no page numbers.*

**Scholarly Journal Article**

Kroll, Paul W. "Reflections on Recent Anthologies of Chinese Literature in

Translation." *Journal of Asian Studies* 61.3 (2002): 985-999. *JSTOR*. Web. 6

Sept. 2006.

**Magazine Article**

Berman, Sanford. "Time to Renew Darfur Stand." *American Libraries* June/July 2007.

*Academic Search Premier*. Web. 14 Oct. 2008.

**Newspaper Article**

Johnson, Carrie. "Report Faults Handling of Wiretap Notes." *Washington Post* 2 Sept.

2008. *Newspaper Source*. Web. 14 Oct. 2008.

**CQ Researcher**

Hansen, Brian. "Cyber-Crime." *CQ Researcher* 12 Apr. 2002: 305-328. *CQ Researcher*

*Online*. Web. 6 Sept. 2006.

**Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center**

Reiss, Jeremy. "Labor Unions Must Partner with Social Movements." *Opposing*

*Viewpoints: Labor Unions*. Ed. Viki Wagner. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2008.

*Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. 16 Sept. 2008.

#### IV. WEB RESOURCES

Note: "Web site" refers to a collection of "Web pages" that share the same domain name. When citing Web sources, include as much of the following information as is applicable and available.

##### **BASIC FORMAT FOR A WEB PAGE:**

Author. "Title of Page or Article." *Title of Web site*. Version or edition. Name of publisher or sponsor of the site (if not available use N.p.). Date of Publication (if none use n.d.). Medium of publication (Web). Date of access (day, month, year).

"Unintended Consequences: Ten Years Under the DMCA." *Electronic Frontier*

*Foundation*. Electronic Frontier Foundation. Oct. 2008. Web. 30 Apr. 2008.

Suellentrop, Chris. "A Better Bailout." *The Opinionator*. New York Times. 22 Sept.

2008. Web. 24 Sept. 2008.

"What Alternatives to Milk are Consumed by Humans?" *Milk: Procon.org*. Procon.org. 8

April 2008. Web. 15 May 2009.

##### **Entire Web Site**

*Celestial Timepiece: A Joyce Carol Oates Homepage*. University of San Francisco.

Apr. 2009. Web. 8 Sept. 2008.

##### **Article in an Online Magazine**

Manjoo, Farhad. "Why Google Knows Will Never be as Good as Wikipedia."

*Slate*. Washington Post.Newsweek Interactive, 22 Sept. 2008. Web. 25 Sept.

2008.

##### **Article in an Online Scholarly Journal**

Brooks, Robert G. "Physicians' Use of Email With Patients: Factors Influencing

Electronic Communication and Adherence to Best Practices." *Journal of Medical*

*Internet Research*. 8.1 (2006): n. pag. Web. 6 Sept. 2006.

## V. OTHER RESOURCES

### Government Document

United States. Bureau of Reclamation. *Design of Small Dams*. Washington: GPO, 1960.  
Print.

### Interview Conducted by Research Paper's Author (In Person, Telephone, or E-mail)

Martinez, Marina. Personal interview. 25 Nov. 2002.

*Note:* Replace "Personal" with "Telephone" or "E-mail" as applicable.

### Lecture, Speech, Address, or Reading

Browne, Carl. "Presidential Address." AMA Convention. Boston. 11 May 1990.  
Address.

### Film or Video Recording

*Title.* Director. Distributor, Year of Release. Medium of publication.

*Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back.* Dir. Irvin Kershner. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox,  
1980. Film.

## PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

When you use another person's words or ideas in your paper, give that person credit by including a parenthetical reference to the original source. Every work you cite should have an entry in your list of works cited.

### Basic Parenthetical Citations

When citing an author's ideas, you can format your parenthetical citation in two ways:

1. Incorporate the author's name and/or title of the work into your text; cite the page number at the end:

Kroll notes that some scholars saw a need for new anthologies as a result  
of the 1991 United States District Court decision (986).

2. Cite the author's name AND the page number at the end. (If a range of page numbers is cited, place the range (ex. 3-8) in the citation.)

Some scholars saw a need for new anthologies as a result of the 1991  
United States District Court decision (Kroll 986).

### Direct Quotations

1. When citing a direct quotation less than four lines long, use quotation marks and place the parenthetical reference after the closing quotation mark. If the end of the quotation is also the end of the sentence, place the parenthetical reference before the closing punctuation mark:

March 2, 1972 is an eventful day for space exploration as “the first-ever interplanetary space probe destined to explore the outer Solar System is being launched” (Fischer 9).

2. If a direct quotation is more than four lines long, set it off from the rest of the text by indenting the whole quotation one inch from the left margin. Do not include quotation marks. Introduce the quotation with a colon and place the reference after the closing punctuation mark:

Fischer emphasizes Callisto’s uniqueness:

Callisto is in fact absolutely unique among all planetary bodies covered with impact craters, because it has no “plain” regions, where the craters have been covered over by more recent processes. Nor does Callisto generate a magnetic field or show any sign of having its own magnetosphere. (246)

#### Variations in the Format of Parenthetical Citations

1. When citing multiple works by the same author, include the title in the citation:

(Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* 54-57).

2. For a work by two or more authors:

(Silverstein, Silverstein, and Nunn 17).

3. For a work by four or more authors, provide first author’s last name followed by “et al.”:

(Herman et al. 12).

4. For a work listed by title in the list of works cited (i.e., works that have no author):

(“Regional Reports” 87).

5. When citing one volume of a multivolume work, include volume number and colon before page number:

(Courthope 2: 21).

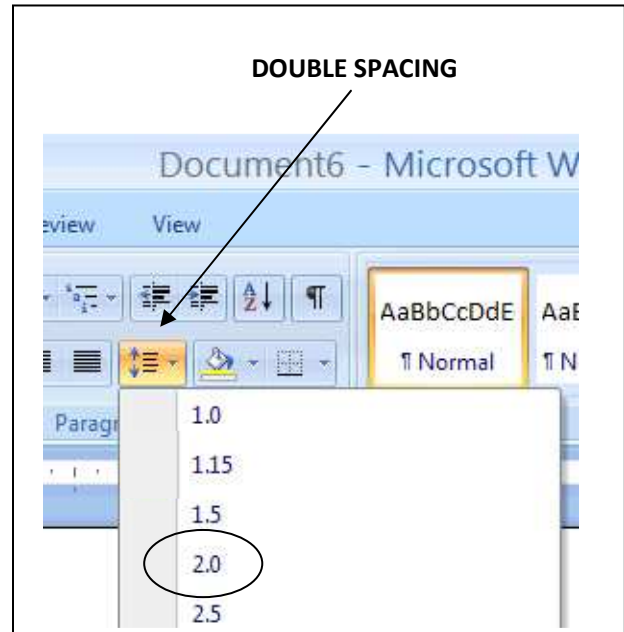
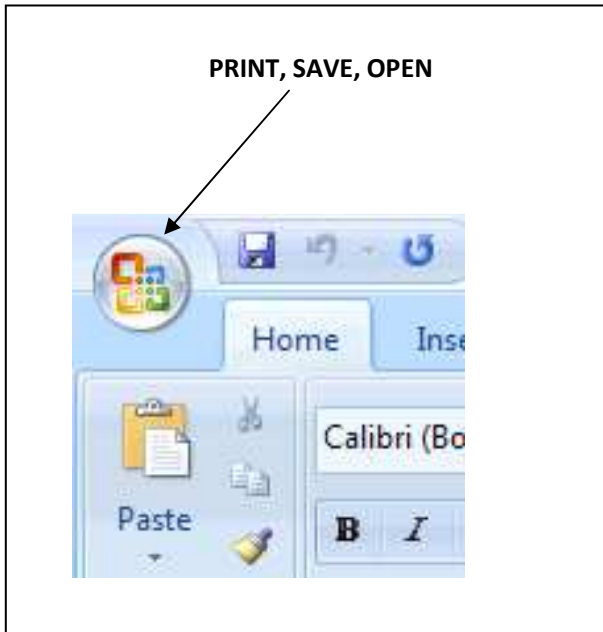
6. When multiple works are listed in the same reference, cite each work as usual, but separate works by a semicolon:

(Curtin 113; Varsava 99).

7. For an indirect source (i.e., a source quoted in another work):

Sontag argues against library automation (qtd. in Berkshire 52).

## MLA FORMATTING WITH WORD 2007



### LAST NAME & PAGE NUMBER IN TOP RIGHT

1. Click "Insert" tab.
2. Click Page Number.
3. From "Top of Page" menu, choose "Plain number 3."
4. Type your last name before the page number. It repeats on all pages.

### HANGING INDENTATION FOR WORKS CITED PAGE

1. Highlight text to be indented.
2. In the "Home" tab, find the word "Paragraph."
3. Click the small arrow to the right of the word "Paragraph."
4. In the Indentation section, find the "Special" drop-down menu and choose "Hanging."

## NOTABLE CHANGES TO 2009 MLA STYLE

In April 2009, the Modern Languages Association (MLA) made significant changes to its documentation style. The most notable changes are:

### 1. UNDERLINING

Underlining has been replaced by italics in all cases. Fight Club becomes *Fight Club*.

### 2. MEDIUM OF PUBLICATION

Every entry must list a Medium of publication. Examples:

- Print
- Web
- DVD
- Lecture
- Film
- Interview
- Radio
- Television

### 3. NO MORE URLS

For Web sources, URLs are no longer required unless there is a good chance the reader couldn't find the source without one. For database articles, library and vendor information are no longer required.

### 4. NEW ABBREVIATIONS FOR WEB SOURCES

- a. N.p. : For Web sources that do not list a publisher.
- b. n.d. : For Web sources that do not list a date.
- c. n. pag. : For online-only journals or database articles with no page numbers.

OLD	NEW
<p><b>Book</b></p> <p>Fischer, Daniel. <u>Mission Jupiter: the Spectacular Journey of the Galileo Spacecraft</u>. New York: Copernicus, 2001.</p>	<p>Fischer, Daniel. <i>Mission Jupiter: the Spectacular Journey of the Galileo Spacecraft</i>. New York: Copernicus, 2001. Print.</p>
<p><b>Journal Article in Database</b></p> <p>Kroll, Paul W. "Reflections on Recent Anthologies of Chinese Literature in Translation." <u>Journal of Asian Studies</u>. 61 (2002): 985-999. <u>JSTOR</u>. Amer. River Coll. Lib., Sacramento, CA. 6 Sept. 2006 &lt;<a href="http://www.jstor.org">http://www.jstor.org</a>&gt;.</p>	<p>Kroll, Paul W. "Reflections on Recent Anthologies of Chinese Literature in Translation." <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i>. 61.3 (2002): 985-999. <i>JSTOR</i>. Web. 6 Sept. 2006.</p>
<p><b>Web Page</b></p> <p>"Unintended Consequences: Ten Years Under the DMCA." <u>Electronic Frontier Foundation</u>. Oct. 2008. Electronic Frontier Foundation. 30 April 2009 &lt;<a href="http://www.eff.org/wp/unintended-consequences-ten-years-under-dmca">http://www.eff.org/wp/unintended-consequences-ten-years-under-dmca</a>&gt;.</p>	<p>"Unintended Consequences: Ten Years Under the DMCA." <i>Electronic Frontier Foundation</i>. Electronic Frontier Foundation. Oct. 2008. Web. 30 April 2009.</p>