

A Short Guide to MLA Format

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A Short Guide to Using MLA Format

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What does MLA stand for? Modern Language Association. This handout is based on the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition. It is not meant to serve as a substitution for the handbook, but rather as an overview of the more common formatting issues and procedures.

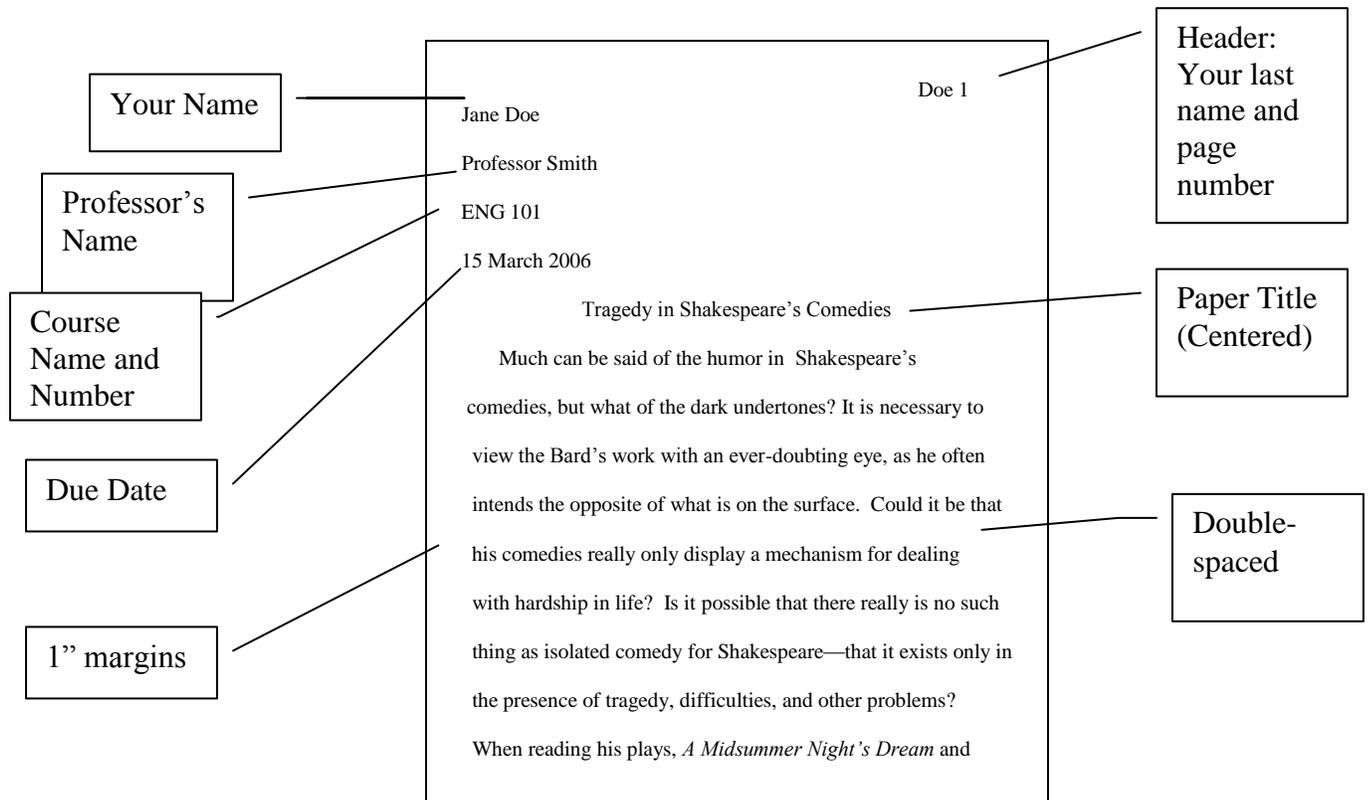
In general, what is MLA format? It is a system that specifies how your paper should be set up and how any sources you use within the paper should be cited. This system is used most frequently in the fields of English and other Humanities. It is always recommended, however, that you ask your professor at the beginning of the semester which format he/she would like your class to use when writing papers.

Paper set-up for MLA style:

- Typed on 8 ½” X 11” paper
- Double-spaced
 - Microsoft Word 2007 may insert an extra space in between paragraphs. To remove this extra space, click on the small arrow at the lower right corner of the “Paragraph” box, which can be found under the “Page Layout” tab. Under “Spacing,” check the box that says “Don’t add space between paragraphs of the same style.”
- 1” margins on all sides
- Times New Roman size 12 pt. is recommended
 - Times New Roman, size 12 font is not always the default font of newer versions of Microsoft Word. To make this the default font in Word 2007, open up the Font options box, make sure the font is set at Times New Roman, size 12, and click on the Default button.
- **Header** in the upper right-hand corner (1/2 inch from the top) of each page, consisting of your last name and the page number
- Unless specified by your professor, **MLA does not require a title page**. Your name, the instructor’s name, course number, and the due date should appear in the heading in the upper left corner of the first text page of your paper (see sample on the next page).
- The **title** should immediately follow the heading on the next line, centered. This should be **capitalized**, but **not** bolded, underlined, italicized, or in a larger font.
- The **body** of your paper should begin immediately following the title on the next line
- Research papers consist of a **Works Cited page** or Notes page at the end of the document to properly cite research presented in the paper. (Works Cited is used most of the time; see the *MLA Handbook* for information on setting up a Notes page)
- When referring to books, journals, plays, movies, television shows, CDs, paintings, and an entire website, **italicize their titles**.
- When referring to articles, essays, poems, short stories, TV episodes, songs, photographs, and sections of a website, place their **titles in “quotations marks.”**

(See a sample first page on the next page)

Sample Paper Set-up



Integrating Research into your Paper

Why do I have to cite my sources?

- *You have to give credit where credit is due. Otherwise, you would be stealing, and thus plagiarizing!*

What is Plagiarism? The College of Saint Rose Catalog of Undergraduate Studies (2009-2011) defines Plagiarism:

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- *Purchasing, copying, down-loading, printing or paraphrasing another's book, article, paper, speech, exam, portfolio, creative work, argument or any other work and presenting it as one's own, either in whole or in part.*
- *Incorporating portions of another's work without proper acknowledgement and documentation. (51-52)*

What are the consequences of plagiarism?

- Plagiarism could result in an F on the assignment, for the course, and possibly lead to your expulsion from the college
- In your professional career, you could be fired, sued, or see your reputation tarnished

How do I know when to cite my sources?

- When you **quote** from a text* (i.e. use the exact wording from it) in your own writing...
- When you **paraphrase** (i.e. put into your own words) a specific idea from a text...
- When you **summarize** (i.e. present a condensed version of) an idea or text in your own writing...
- When you use **facts, statistics, or data** from an outside text in your writing...
- When you **refer to an idea or source in passing**. You may use this method when you want your reader to know about the existence of a specific source or idea relevant to your topic, but do not want to go into specific detail.
- When you use a **visual** (a photograph, painting, chart, table, or graph) from an outside source within your paper...

***Note:** A text can be written, visual, auditory, or electronic (i.e. a website).

How do I go about citing my sources in my paper?

- You will need a **parenthetical citation**—information that appears in your text that tells your reader the general information about where the ideas that are not your own can be found within your research (also called in-text or internal citations).
- MLA formatted parenthetical citations generally include the **source author's last name and the page number** the idea can be found on. This information must be included for each and every idea that is not your own, including quoted, paraphrased, and summarized ideas. See page 4 for setting up citations for web sources and texts that may not have an author or page numbers.

Parenthetical Citations can be set-up in two ways:

1. Author and Page Number in parentheses after the idea:

Ex. It can be argued that “*Romeo and Juliet* is not only the tale of two young, doomed lovers; it is the story of how youth can be destroyed when the banality of adulthood is imminent” (Smith 76).

Note: No comma is placed between the author's last name and the page number in the citation. No “pp.” or “page” is written before the page number. These items are unnecessary.

2. Author mentioned in the phrasing leading up to, within, or following the idea; page number appears in parentheses after the idea:

Ex. Smith declares that “it is the uninspired lifestyle of being an adult, and the destruction of one’s childhood innocence that results from its onset, that truly characterizes *Romeo and Juliet*—not simply the story of tragic unrequited love” (76).

OR

Ex. “It is the uninspired lifestyle of being an adult,” declares Smith, “and the destruction of one’s childhood innocence that results from its onset, that truly characterizes *Romeo and Juliet*—not simply the story of tragic unrequited love” (76).

Note: The first time you mention an author, critic, etc. in your text, be sure to state his or her first name. Ex. According to scholar, Diane Smith...etc.

Setting Up Parenthetical Citations in Various Circumstances

Authors with the same last name

Add the first initial of each author's name when mentioned in your paper

Ex. According to J. Smith..... (89). OR One item that.... (M. Smith 154).

2-3 Authors

Smith and Jones state..... (78). OR It was believed that..... (Smith, Harris, and Jones 78).

4 or more Authors

List all of the authors:

Ex. According to Smith, Johnson, Peters, and Harris in their pivotal work... (88).

OR

List the first author's last name, followed by the abbreviation, et al.

Ex. This is discussed..... (Smith et al. 88).

No author listed

When listing the citation information in parentheses, use either the full title or the first word or two by which it is alphabetized on your Works Cited page. When mentioning the title in your text, use the full title.

Ex. The essay "Youth and Age in *Romeo and Juliet*" addresses Juliet's indifference... (47).

Ex. Juliet's indifference is seen... ("Youth" 47).

More than one work by the same author

Add a shortened form of the title or the entire title (if brief) when listing the citation information in parentheses. When mentioning the title in your text, use the full title.

Ex. Jones addresses this issue in *Feminist Ideals: 21st Century Perspectives*, stating... (45).

Ex. This inconsistency is addressed.... (Jones, *Feminist Ideals* 45).

Two or more works in the same citation

This situation may occur when multiple sources address the same idea. Separate each source with a semi-colon (;)

Ex. (Harris 158; Jones 43; Smith 75).

Website

Follow the above rules regarding authorship. No page number is needed, but paragraph numbers should be included if they are provided in the source. Separate the author's name and the paragraph number with a comma. Use the abbreviation par. or pars. to indicate the paragraph numbers.

Ex. In "A Look at Romeo the Man," the character's masculinity is explored.

Ex. Despite his actions, Romeo actually... (Smith, par. 4).

Indirect Source

If the source you are using cites another author's idea and you want to use this idea in your paper, you must make it known to your reader you came across this idea in a secondhand manner:

Ex. According to Henderson, Shakespeare is said to have written his some of his comedies "while in an euphoric state stimulated by the warmth of the sunshine in April" (qtd. in Johnson 55).

*Johnson is the author of the text you have in front of you, and he has a quote from Henderson in his book on page 55. Johnson should also be cited on your Works Cited page, rather than Henderson. This is to emphasize to your reader that you obtained Henderson's idea from **Johnson's** text.*

Methods of Including Ideas from Other Texts in Your Paper

Quoting

Quoting involves presenting the exact wording of a text, signified by the use of quotation marks to bracket in the used material. The author's last name and relevant page numbers must be provided for most sources (see the section on setting up Citations above for more information). A quote must also be either introduced or followed up with your own words within the same sentence. It must also be explained in relation to your ideas.

Ex. Original Text: *Romeo and Juliet* is not only the tale of two young, doomed lovers; it is the story of how youth can be destroyed when the banality of adulthood is imminent (Smith 76).

Incorrect Quote: Shakespeare's tragedies also feature lessons about youth and aging. "*Romeo and Juliet* is not just the story of young lovers; it is the tale of how youth can be destroyed when the banality of being an adult is imminent" (Smith 76).

- This is an **incorrect** quote because the writer has left out words and phrases ("two" and "doomed") and has altered other phrasing ("tale" became "story," "story" became "tale," and "adulthood" became "being an adult"). This would be considered a form of plagiarism because the writer is misrepresenting the exact idea of the author. The writer has also left the quote by itself in a sentence with no introduction or no follow-up wording, nor any explanation, which is ineffective academic writing.

Correct Quote: Smith addresses how Shakespeare's tragedies also feature lessons about youth and aging, stating, "*Romeo and Juliet* is not only the tale of two young, doomed lovers; it is the story of how youth can be destroyed when the banality of adulthood is imminent" (76). The play suggests that in youth is when we are the most hopeful and even logical, but this ends in adulthood when we are overcome by bitterness and irrationality.

- This is a **correct** quote because the writer has properly introduced, included, cited, and explained the quote.

Types of Quotes

Short Quotes:

- **4 typed lines or fewer in your paper (for poetry/song lyrics—3 lines or fewer)**
- **Quotation marks** indicate the exact wording of the author's idea is being used
- **Citation usually includes the author's last name and page number** (see pages 3-4 for more information)
- **Lead-in/Follow-up:** the quote is either introduced or followed-up with the writer's own wording within the *same* sentence
- **Explanation:** most quotes also need to be explained in relation to your ideas
- **Punctuation:**
 - **End Punctuation** is placed **after** the citation
 - **Commas** should be placed **before** the end quotation marks
 - **When there is not a citation at the end of a sentence, periods** should be placed before the end quotation marks
 - **Semi-colons (;), question marks, and exclamation points** should be placed **after** closing quotation marks when they are not part of the quoted material

- Use **ellipses (...)** to indicate your omission of words within a quote and use **brackets** around part of a quote that has been added or altered for readability
 - **Ex.** According to Harris, there are “some students [who] are tempted to take shortcuts because of . . . course difficulty . . . and even shortness of time now that so many students work part-time to help themselves through school” (4).
- If you quote text that already includes a quote, place this quote within **single quotation marks**
 - **Ex.** According to Smith “there are many ways to ‘**fix this complicated problem**’ which has manifested...” (45).
- **Short quotes are preferred over long quotes!**

Example:

This failure to act is addressed by Davis, who asserts that change will only happen when “the motivation behind the decision concerns those in charge” (55). Unfortunately, Davis is right because of the numerous examples of this situation that exist in our society today.

Long Quotes:

- **Longer than 4 typed lines**
- Printed in a **self-standing block, indented 10 spaces** from the left margin
- **Spacing:** block is double-spaced
- **No quotation marks “” used**
- **End punctuation is placed *before* the citation**
- **Lead-in:** the quote is introduced with the writer’s own wording
- **Explanation:** long quotes need to be explained in relation to your ideas

Example:

Johnson explores how the characters of Romeo and Juliet reject their families’ prejudices:

The two young lovers are symbolic of the dangers inherent in prejudiced behavior. Both teens have parents who reject the possibility of young love because they have forgotten how to love one another as friends and neighbors. The parents are firmly resolved to live only within the confines of their own families, refusing to understand, forgive, and accept those who have wronged them. Romeo and Juliet refuse to give in to this way of life, not wanting to believe that this is the fate that will befall them. (45)

In refusing to live as their parents have lived, Romeo and Juliet emphasize the reluctance to transition from youth to adulthood— a time of mistrust, bitterness, and anger.

Summarizing

Summarizing involves presenting in your own words a condensed version of a large section of text (very similar to a *book report*). If you are only summarizing a chapter or another section of a text, provide the author and page range the information appears on. If you are summarizing the whole text, the author's name and title of the text will suffice.

Ex. **Summary** of *Romeo and Juliet*

In William Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, two young teens of disputing families fall in love. They face the repercussions of such a relationship through the deaths of Romeo's friend Mercutio and Juliet's cousin, Tybalt. Despite these tragedies, Romeo and Juliet are united under a clandestine marriage ceremony. The two lovers decide to fake their deaths in order to permanently be together away from their families. However, because of miscommunication, Romeo believes that Juliet has truly died. Upon observing her seemingly dead, but really only unconscious body, Romeo decides to drink poison so that they will be together in death. Juliet suddenly wakes up and observes Romeo's tragic act. When she realizes what he has done, she stabs herself to reunite with him in the afterlife.

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing involves presenting in your own words an interpretation of an author's idea (usually a small section of text). The author's last name and relevant page numbers must be provided for most sources (see the section on Setting up Citations above for more information). In order for a paraphrase to be successful, **you must not only use alternate wording, but also change the structure of the original sentence(s).**

Ex. Original text: *Romeo and Juliet* is not only the tale of two young, doomed lovers; it is the story of how youth can be destroyed when the banality of adulthood is imminent (Smith 76).

Incorrectly Paraphrased text: *Romeo and Juliet* is not only a story of a young pair of tragic lovers; it is a story of the destruction of youth in the face of the monotony of adulthood (Smith 76).

- *Although the writer has properly cited the idea, this is an incorrect paraphrase because he/she has not changed the structure of the author's original sentence, instead simply substituting synonyms for various words.*

Correctly Paraphrased text: It is the uninspired lifestyle of being an adult, and the destruction of one's childhood innocence that results from its onset, that truly characterizes *Romeo and Juliet*, not simply the story of tragic unrequited love (Smith 76).

- *The writer has used his/her own wording and has restructured the order of ideas within the sentence.*

Tips for an effective paraphrase:

- Read the original passage several times until you feel you fully understand it.
- Imagine how you would explain this passage orally to someone who had not read it.
- Put the passage aside and write/type it in your own words.
- Check your version with original. Make sure that the structure and wording of your version and that of the original are different. If you cannot think of how else to say certain words or phrases, place quotation marks around them.
- Once you feel you have a strong paraphrase—one that is structured differently from the original and uses your own words— place a properly formatted parenthetical citation after it.

Referencing Poetry, Drama, and Film within a Paper

For referencing prose works within your paper, follow the guidelines stated in the previous pages.

POETRY

- * **THREE LINES OR FEWER OF POETRY:** Separate each line with a / and include the line numbers (and author's last name if necessary) in a parenthetical citation at the end of the poetic lines. Retain the exact same punctuation, spelling, and capitalization. Use quotation marks to set the boundaries for the beginning and end of the poetic lines.

Examples:

One line, or part of a line: [from "That Dog of Art" by Denise Levertov]
The image of having "daisies for eyes" (1) conveys the creative and sometimes fanciful visions of life that poets convey through their poetry.

Two-Three lines: [from "Birches" by Robert Frost]
He is described as "Some boy too far from town to learn baseball, / Whose only play was what he found himself, / Summer or winter, and could play alone" (Frost 25-27).

FOUR OR MORE LINES: block the poetry off from the rest of your text. Indent each line ten spaces (1") from the left margin, double-spacing between each line. If your sentence that introduces this block of poetry does not flow smoothly with the lines, place a colon [:] following the sentence. No quotation marks are used when poetry is blocked off. The line numbers are placed in a parenthetical citation immediately following the last word (or end punctuation) of the poem.

Example: [from "Burning the Christmas Greens" by William Carolos Williams]

However, there is a sense of sadness that is evoked with the lines that tell of retrieving branches

to fill our need, and over
doorways, about paper Christmas
bells covered with tinfoil
and fastened by red ribbons. (18-23)

- * **OMITTING WORDS FROM A POEM:** If you need to omit text from a quoted poem, use 3 elliptical points to indicate the omission. If you need to omit an entire line of poetry, use a line of ellipses similar to the length of a line in the poem.

Example: [From "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun" by William Shakespeare]

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red . . . ;
.....
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head. (1-2, 4)

Drama/Film

For quoting two or more lines of dialogue from a play or film, set the lines off from the rest of the text. Indent 10 spaces (1") and write the first character's name in all caps, followed by a period. For each subsequent line of dialogue spoken by the same person at the same time, indent it ¼ inch further in the blocked off section (about 5 spaces). Double-space throughout. In parentheses following the last line of text, indicate the author and then the act, scene, canto, part, book, and/or line numbers. Generally, you do not use the actual words "act," "scene," etc. in the citations unless the section has a specific name (i.e. books of the Bible). For example, Act Two, Scene Three, lines 34-40, would be represented as (2.3. 34-40). Separate each number with a period.

Example: [from *A Doll's House*]

Nora and Helmer's disagreement about the role of men and women is clearly seen through their argument about Nora's decision to leave at the end of the play:

NORA. To-morrow I shall go home—I mean, to my old home. It will be easiest for me
to find something to do there.

HELMER. You blind, foolish woman!

NORA. I must try and get some sense, Torvald!

HELMER. To desert your home, your husband and your children! And you don't
consider what people will say! (Ibsen 3.763-77)

DRAMA IN VERSE FORM (i.e. Shakespeare's plays): use the rules above for dialogue. However, when quoting 3 or fewer lines from a monologue, soliloquy, or another section of text spoken by one character, separate the lines using forward slashes, as you would for separating lines of poetry.

Example:

Puck ends *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with "So, good night unto you all. / Give me your hands, if we be friends, / And Robin shall restore amends" (5.1. 431-433).

QUOTING MORE THAN THREE LINES OF A VERSE PLAY: set the passage off from the rest of the text as you would for 4 or more lines of a section of a poem (see previous page).

Example:

Hamlet laments the relationship between his mother and uncle, wishing his life would end:

O, that this too sullied flesh would melt,

Thaw, and resolve itself into a dew!

Or that the Everlasting had not fixed

His canyon 'gainst self-slaughter! O God, God,

How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable

Seem to me all the uses of this world! (Shakespeare 1.2. 129-134)

Setting up the Works Cited Page

What is a Works Cited page? It is a complete list of every source referenced in your paper, providing the information necessary for your reader to locate your sources. It is the very last part of your research paper. The parenthetical citations used in your text will refer to the more complete information about your sources listed on this page.

Format

- The words Works Cited appear centered at the top of the page—no bolding, underlining, or larger font!
- Header continues to appear at the top of the page
- **Spacing:** double-spaced throughout—no single spacing!
- Sources are arranged **alphabetically** according to the first word of each entry
- Each entry uses a **hanging indent**—the first line is left aligned; the second and subsequent lines are each indented 5 spaces.
- **Every source that you cite in your paper must appear on your Works Cited page and vice versa—any source that appears on your Works Cited page must appear in your paper!**

Doe 7
Works Cited
Coonradt, Nicole M. "To Be Loved: Amy Denver and Human Need— Bridges to Understanding in Toni Morrison's <i>Beloved</i> ." <i>College Literature</i> 32.4 (Fall 2005): 168-187. Print.
Morrison, Toni. <i>Beloved</i> . New York: Plume, 1988. Print.
---. <i>The Bluest Eye</i> . New York: Plume, 1994. Print.
Smith, John and Jane Jones. <i>Interpreting Romeo and Juliet</i> . 4 th ed. New York: Oxford, 1995. Print.
Werrlein, Deborah T. "Not So Fast, Dick and Jane: Reimagining Childhood and Nation in <i>The Bluest Eye</i> ." <i>MELUS</i> 30.4 (Winter 2005): 53-72. <i>Academic Search Premier</i> . Web. 22 May 2006.
Wills, Joy. "Genealogy of Rejection in Morrison's <i>The Bluest Eye</i> ." <i>Anniina's Toni Morrison Page</i> . 2000. Web. 23 May 2006.

Format for Works Cited Entries

We have provided either generic examples or explanations for each type of entry, along with specific examples. There are, of course, many other types of sources that you may include in your paper. For more information on these sources, please see our list of additional resources at the end of this handout. Citations formats for online versions of print sources can be found with the citation format for the print version of the source. **For help on how to work with variations on Works Cited entry information (multiple authors, no titles, etc.) please see pages 16-17.**

NOTE: You should format each citation with the intent of trying to fit the information on one line; however, most citations will carry over onto a second or even third line. If an example below shows certain information on a particular line, it is only because it could not fit on the first line, not because it is required to be there.

Books and other Non-Periodicals

Book, 1 Author: if multiple places of publication are listed, use the first one. See pages 16-17 for how to set up the citation when there are multiple authors of a book.

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

Example:

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. New York: Plume, 1994. Print.

Online Book: Include the print publication information of the book first, followed by the title of the website, the word 'Web', and the date of access

Last Name, First Name of Author. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. *Title of Website or Database*. Medium. Day Month Year of access.

Example:

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. Hertfordshire, England: London Press, 1997. *Google Book Search*. Web. 18 May 2009.

A Specific Edition: Give the edition number directly after the title of the book.

Example:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2003. Print.

Book/Anthology with an Editor: Begin the entry with the name of the editor(s) followed by a comma and the abbreviation *ed.* (or *eds.* for multiple editors)

Tate, Gary, Amy Rupiper, and Kurt Schick, eds. *A Guide to Composition Pedagogies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. Print.

Work in an Anthology or Collection (an essay, short story, play, poem, etc.)

Last Name, First Name of author of the smaller work. "Title of the Smaller Work." *Title of the Larger*

Work/Anthology. Editors. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Page numbers where the smaller work appears. Medium.

Example:

Covino, William A. "Rhetorical Pedagogy." *A Guide to Composition Pedagogies*. Eds. Gary Tate, Amy

Rupiper, and Kurt Schick. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. 36-53. Print.

A Multivolume Work: If you are citing only one volume, state the number and publication information of that volume only.

Example:

Smith, Page. *A New Age Now Begins: A People's History of the American Revolution*. Vol. 1. New York:

McGraw Hill, 1976. Print.

For two or more volumes, note the total number of volumes after the title/edition. Refer to specific volumes and page number in your parenthetical citations.

Baym, Nina, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 6th ed. 5 vols. New York: W.W. Norton,

2003. Print.

A Translation: State the author and title followed by *Trans.* plus the name of the translator. If the translation also has an editor, include this information as well. Arrange this information based on the order it appears on the title page of the book.

Example:

Cixous, Helene. *'Coming to Writing' and Other Essays*. Ed. Deborah Jensen. Trans. Sarah Cornell.

Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1991. Print.

Article in a Reference Book: An encyclopedia or dictionary entry is considered a piece in a collection, as is a work in an anthology, and should be treated the same. The editor does not have to be included. If there is a signed author, include his/her name first. Volume and page numbers may be omitted if the text arranges the entries alphabetically.

Example:

"Compassion." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 11th ed. 2003. Print.

Introduction, Preface, Foreword, or Afterword: Begin the entry with the author of the part you are citing. If the author of the entire work is the same person who wrote the specific section, write “By” followed by the author’s last name only after the title of the book. Include the page numbers the section appears on at the end of the citation.

Example:

Clifford, John and John Schilb. Introduction. *Writing Theory and Critical Theory*. By Clifford and Schilb.
New York: MLW, 1994. 1-15. Print.

If the author of the entire work is different from this author, include the word “By” followed by the author of the entire work’s full name after the title of the book.

McCourt, Frank. Foreword. *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. By
Lynne Truss. New York: Gotham Books, 2003. xi-xiv. Print.

Pamphlet: Treat a pamphlet like a book. If no author is noted, begin with the title of the pamphlet.

Example:

Enhancing your Interactions with People with Disabilities. Washington, DC: APA, 1999. Print.

Periodicals

Scholarly Journal Article: The words “volume” and “issue” are not written in the entry—only the numbers themselves are required.

Last Name, First Name of Author. “Title of Article.” *Title of Journal* volume.issue (Date of publication):
page number range of the entire article. Medium.

Example:

Ritter, Kelly. “Buying In, Selling Short: A Pedagogy Against the Rhetoric of Online Paper Mills.”
Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Composition, and Culture 6.1 (2006): 25-51.
Print.

Citing an Article from an Online Journal’s Website: follow the requirements of a print version of the article, but if there are no page numbers included, use the abbreviation **n.pag.** Include the date of access at the end of the citation.

Dobson, Hugo. “Mister Sparkle Meets the *Yakuza*: Depictions of Japan in *The Simpsons*.” *Journal of Popular Culture*. 39 (2006): n. pag. Web. 21 September 2006.

Article from a Library Subscription Service (i.e. EBSCO, Lexis–Nexis, etc.): For page numbers, unless the article is in a PDF format or in an html. format that specifies the original print page numbers, use the abbreviation **n. pag.** for “no pages.”

Last name, First name of Author. “Title of Article.” *Title of Journal* volume.issue (Publication Date): page number range of the entire article. *Database name*. Medium. Date of access.

Example:

Brown, Carolyn. “Juliet’s Taming of Romeo.” *Studies in English Literature* 36.2 (1996): 333-355.

Academic Search Premier. Web. 21 September 2006.

An Article in a Newspaper: For locally published newspapers whose names are not in the titles, add the city name in brackets after the title, i.e. [Albany]. For the edition, specify which edition (if known) the version you are using is (early edition, late edition, final edition, etc.). Place the page numbers the article (including the section and number) appears on at the end of the citation. If the article starts on one page, but continues onto another non-consecutive page, include only this first page and a plus sign. (ex. A5 +).

Last Name, First Name of Author. “Title of Article.” *Title of Newspaper* Day Month Year of Print, Edition:
Pages. Medium.

Example:

Thomas, Mike. “Steal Traps: Sleuthing Software Makes it Easier than Ever to Catch a Plagiarist, so why do

Writers Keeping Ripping off the Words of Others?” *Chicago Sun Times* 9 July 2006, final ed.: B1.

Print.

Article in a Newspaper Sponsored Website: Following the title of the newspaper, include the name of the sponsoring organization (which may be the name of the newspaper), the date of posting, the word ‘Web,’ and the date of access.

Example:

Revkin, Andrew. “Branson Pledges Billions to Fight Global Warming.” *New York Times*. New York Times, 21

September 2006. Web. 1 October 2006.

An Article in a Magazine: If the article appears on non-consecutive pages, include only the first page and a plus sign (ex. 58+). If there is no author given, begin the entry with the title.

Last Name, First Name of Article Author. “Article Title.” *Magazine Title* Day Month Year of publication:
page numbers. Medium.

Example:

Sigler, Eunice. “Boxed in by ADD.” *ADDitude* November 2005: 29-32. Print.

Article in an Online Magazine: Following the title of the magazine, include the name of the sponsoring organization (which may be the name of the magazine), the date of posting, the word 'Web,' and the date of access.

Example:

Bahari, Maziar. "Silencing Dissent." *Newsweek*. Newsweek, 15 September 2006. Web. 21 September 2006.

Websites (non-periodical and non-book-based)

The *MLA Handbook* offers a helpful list of possible components that can be included in a Works Cited entry for an internet source. There are rarely any websites that will include all of the following components. The best step to take is to include in order what components you know the website contains. Here is a condensed version of the list that MLA provides for websites:

1. The name of the author, editor, or compiler of the specific part of the website you are using
2. Title of the article, poem, essay, short-story, song, or other short work on the larger site (in quotation marks)
3. Title of the larger Internet website (italicized) the section you are using appears on
4. Version number or edition used
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if none is listed use **N.p.**
6. Date of publication, posting, or last update; if none is listed use **n.d.**
7. Medium (Web)
8. Date of access
9. URL (used only when the reader would have difficulty finding the source without it or if your professor requires it; see the example below)

General Format:

Last Name, First Name of author. "Title of Section." *Title of overall website*. Edition. Publisher or Sponsoring Organization, date of publication or posting. Medium. Day month year of access.

Citing an entire website

Example:

Salon.com. Salon Media Group, Inc., 2006. Web. 21 September 2006.

Citing a specific part of a website

Example:

Felluga, Dino. "General Introduction to Postmodernism." *Introductory Guide to Critical Theory*. Purdue University, 2003. Web. 21 September 2006.

Citing a Web source, URL provided: Place the URL for the website in between angle brackets, followed by a period.

Example:

Brown, David. "The Environment and Plastic." *Help the Earth Now!* Association of Earth Advocates, 2005.
Web. 4 December 2008. <www.earthadvocates.org/plastic.html>.

Multimedia and Other Sources

Published Interview: Begin the entry with the name of the person interviewed, the title of the interview or just the word Interview if there is no title. Follow this with the name of the person who conducted the interview. Next, include the appropriate bibliographic information for the type of source the interview comes from (i.e. a book, journal article, newspaper article, website, video, etc.)

Last Name, First Name of person being interviewed. "Title of the Interview (if any)." OR Interview. Person who conducted the interview. Bibliographic information of the source.

Example:

Kidman, Nicole. "Sitting Down with the Aussie Starlet." Interview by John Smith. *Interviews with the Stars*. Ed. Kelly Miller. New York: Celebrity Press, 2008. Print.

Personal Interview

Last name, First name of person interviewed. Type of Interview. Day Month Year interview took place.

Example:

Doe, Jane. E-mail Interview. 15 September, 2006.

Television Program

"Title of the Episode or Segment." *Title of the Program*. Name of the Network. Call letters and city of local station. Broadcast date. Medium of reception.

Example:

"Fame." *Law and Order*. NBC. WNYT, Albany. 22 September 2006. Television.

Online: Use only the relevant bibliographic information above (the call letters and local station would be irrelevant). Add the title of the website, the word Web, and the date of access.

"Fame." *Law and Order*. NBC. 2006. YouTube. Web. 15 May 2007.

Movie/Film

Film Title. Director. Performers. Distribution Studio, Year. Medium.

Example:

American Beauty. Dir. Sam Mendes. Perf. Kevin Spacey and Annette Benning. DreamWorks SKG, 1999. DVD.

Online: Use the relevant bibliographic information above, but drop the medium type. Add the title of the website, the word Web, and the date of access.

American Beauty. Dir. Sam Mendes. Perf. Kevin Spacey and Annette Benning. DreamWorks SKG, 1999. *Film Archive*. Web. 5 April 2009.

Music Album

Last Name, First Name of Performer (or name of musical group). *Title of Album*. Year of Recording (if the album has been re-released) Studio, Year of release. Medium.

Example:

Sinatra, Frank. *In The Wee Small Hours*. Rec. 1954. Capitol Records, 1998. CD.

Note: MLA stresses that who you list at the beginning of the entry for musical recordings will depend on *who* you wish to emphasize—the performer, the song writer, the conductor, etc.

Song

Last Name, First Name of Writer. “Song Title.” Performer Name. *Album Title*. Studio, Year of release. Medium.

Example:

Mraz, Jason. “You and I Both.” Perf. Jason Mraz. *Waiting for My Rocket to Come*. Elektra, 2002. CD.

Sound File: Use the bibliographic information above, but drop the medium type. Add the type of music file.

Mraz, Jason. “You and I Both.” Perf. Jason Mraz. *Waiting for My Rocket to Come*. Elektra, 2002. MP3 file.

Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph

Last Name, First Name of Artist. *Title of Work*. Year of creation. Type of composition. Institution that houses the work, City.

Example:

DaVinci, Leonardo. *Mona Lisa*. 1503. Oil on Popular Wood. The Louvre, Paris.

Online: Use the relevant bibliographic information above. Add the title of the website, the word Web, and the date of access. (see example on the next page)

DaVinci, Leonardo. *Mona Lisa*. 1503. Oil on Poplar Wood. The Louvre, Paris. *Database of Italian Art*. Web. 6 February 2008.

Digital file: This pertains to files that you obtain that are not connected to a specific website (i.e. a file e-mailed to you). Use the standard bibliographic information for the piece of art, but add the type of file.

DaVinci, Leonardo. *Mona Lisa*. 1503. Oil on Poplar Wood. The Louvre, Paris. JPEG file.

Map or Chart: if the map is published as an independent document, its title should be italicized; if the map appears in a book or other document, the title should be in quotation marks.

Title of Document. Type of Document. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Medium.

Example:

New York State. Map. Albany: Maps Inc., 2000. Print.

Online: include the title of the website, sponsoring organization, date of posting, the word 'Web,' and the date of access

"Albany, New York." Map. *Google Maps*. Google, 6 April 2008. Web. 11 May 2009.

Variations on Works Cited Entry information

Source with 2 Authors: invert only the first author's name. Following the word 'and,' list the second author's name normally.

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-century Literary Imagination*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979. Print.

Source with more than 2 Authors: invert only the first author's name. List the other authors' names normally, separating each name with a comma. Include the word 'and,' before the last author's name.

Stubbs, Marcia, Sylvan Barnet, and William Cain. *The Little Brown Reader*. New York: Longman, 2006. Print.

Source without an Author: Begin the citation with the title of the source.

"Understanding Postcolonial Theory." *Literary Theory Decoded*. University of England. 2007. Web. 17 May 2009.

Two or more works by the same Author: List the texts on your Works Cited page alphabetically according to title. Instead of typing the author's name for the second and subsequent entries, type 3 hyphens followed by a period.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. New York: Plume, 1988. Print.

- - -. *The Bluest Eye*. New York: Plume, 1994. Print.

The following resource was used to assist in the design of this handout:

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009.

Still need help with MLA? Here are some additional resources:

- The College of Saint Rose Writing Center! Located in the Academic Support Center on the 2nd floor of Saint Joseph Hall. Stop by or call **454-5299** to make an appointment!
- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009.
- *Prentice Hall Reference Guide*, 7th edition. Edited by Muriel Harris.
- Bedford St. Martin's website (by Diane Hacker): <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rewriting/rc2.html>
- Using Modern Language Association (MLA) Format. From *The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University*. <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- The Modern Language Association's website: http://www.mla.org/style_faq

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This page is located at: <http://www.strose.edu/writingcenter>
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