

USING MLA STYLE

Updated for 2009

The MLA (Modern Language Association) has created specific guidelines for formatting manuscripts and for citing sources used in your research. When you reference someone else's ideas, either through paraphrasing, summarizing or quoting, you are required to follow two steps:

1. Give the author's name (or the title of the work) and the page number of the work in a parenthetical citation.
2. Provide full citation information, in MLA format, for the source in your Works Cited.

PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

In MLA style, the author's last name (or the title of the work, if no author is listed) and the page or paragraph number (if given) where the source material is located must appear in the body text of your paper.

- **Example—Author's name in text**
Audrey Jaffe described the novel as "A narrative whose ostensible purpose is the production of social sympathy" (329).
- **Example—Author's name in reference**
Christmas celebrations were dying because the industrialized worker could not afford to celebrate the holidays in the traditions of their ancestors (Hooper 3).
- **Example—No author given**
In several episodes, *The Simpsons* has referenced *Citizen Kane*—the number one film in the American Film Institute's "100 Greatest American Movies of All Time" (AFI).

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATIONS FOR A WORKS CITED PAGE

The Works Cited page appears, double-spaced, after the last page of your paper. Each source you use in your essay must appear in your Works Cited, and each source in your Works Cited must be cited in the text of your essay. The first word of these entries must match, so that readers are able to locate the in-text citation on the Works Cited page.

Books (Includes brochures, pamphlets, and graphic novels)

Author's name. *Title of Book*. Place of publication: Publisher, date of publication. Print.[Media marker]
Pally, Marcia. *Sex & Sensibility: Reflections on Forbidden Mirrors*. Hopewell, NJ: Ecco, 1984. Print

A Work within an Anthology

Author's name. "Title of Work." *Title of Anthology*. Ed. Editor's name(s). Place of publication: Publisher, date.
Pages. Print.

Place, J.A., and L.S. Peterson. "Some Visual Motifs of Film Noir." *Movies and Methods*. Ed. Bill Nichols. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976. 325-38. Print.

Article in a Scholarly Journal

Author's name. "Title of the article." *Journal title* vol. number and issue (date of publication): pages. Print.

Aleksiuik, Natasha. "'A Thousand Angles': Photographic Irony in the Work of Julia Margaret Cameron and Virginia Woolf." *Mosaic* 33.2 (2000): 125-42. Print.

A Web Site

Author's name. *Name of page*. Name of institution or organization associated with the Web Site. Date of posting/revision.
Web. Date of access.

Swan, Mike. *BRAT Online*. Basenji Rescue and Transport. 2009. Web. 20 Apr. 2009.

Article on a Web Site

Author's name. "Article Title." *Name of Web Site*. Name of institution or organization associated with the Web Site. Date of posting/revision. Web. Date of access.

Carroll, Jason. "Homeless Asked to Pay Rent." *CNN.com*. 10 May 2009. Web. 11 May 2009.

Television or Radio Program

"Title of episode or segment." *Title of Program or Series*. Name of network. Call letters and city of the local station. Broadcast date. Medium of reception (e.g. Radio, Television). Supplemental information (e.g. Transcript).

"Man of Science, Man of Faith." *Lost*. ABC. 21 May 2005. Television.

A Sound Recording

Artist/Band. "Song Title." *Title of album*. Manufacturer, year of issue. Medium (e.g. Audiocassette, CD, Audiotape, LP, Digital Download).

Wilco. "Jesus Don't Cry." *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. Nonesuch, 2002. CD.

Film

Title. Dir. Director's name. Perf. Actor's names (if relevant). Distributor, year of release. Medium.

Goodfellas. Dir. Martin Scorsese. Film. Perf. Ray Liotta, Lorraine Bracco. Warner Bros., 1991. Film.

MAJOR CHANGES

- **Media Markers**
 - All entries are now identified by a medium of publication marker, like Print of Web (the most common ones) but TV, DVD, Performance or Interview are other examples. These appear at the end of the entry followed in online sources only by the date of access.
- **No More URLs**
 - Website entries no longer require URL addresses! Website authors, article titles and website names are still necessary.
- **Pagination**
 - Calculating continuous pagination for scholarly journals is no longer necessary, Simply cite the volume and issue numbers.
- **Abbreviations**
 - Website citations now require a publisher name and a date of publication. When no date appears, use “n.d.” For online only publications without pagination, use “n.pag.”
- **No More Underlining**
 - Do not underline anything. Instead, italicize titles of independently published works like books, journals, films, and television shows.

For more information, consult the 7th edition of The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.