



# MLA Citation Methods

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## What is MLA?

- ♣ Modern Language Association
- ♣ A method of citing references in research papers
  - Parenthetical citations in text
  - Works Cited page

## Documentation in the text: Parenthetical Citations

### ♣ One Author

- Author's name in reference
  - Usually, the author's last name and page number
  - Note punctuation
    - (Author's last name page number)
    - Ex. This point has been argued before (Frye 197).
- Author's name in text
  - Do not use the author's last name in the citation if the author's name appears in the text
    - (page number)
    - Ex. Frye has argued this point before (197).

### ♣ Two Authors

- Authors' names in reference
  - Alphabetically by last name and page number
  - Note punctuation
    - (Author's last name and Author's last name page number)
    - Ex. Others hold an opposite view (Warren and Wellek 310-15).
- Authors' names in text
  - Do not use the authors' last names in the citation if the authors' names appear in the text
    - (Page number)
    - Ex. Others, like Wellek and Warren (310-15), hold an opposite view.

### ♣ Three Authors

- Authors' names in reference
  - Alphabetically by last name, separated by commas and page number
  - Note punctuation
    - (Last name, last name, last name page number)
    - Ex. Another measure of emotional intelligence is the success of intrapersonal relationships (Smith, Taylor, and Todd 14-15).
- Authors' names in text
  - Do not use the authors' last names in the citation if the authors' names appear in the text
    - (Page number)
    - Ex. Smith, Taylor, and Todd argue another measure of emotional intelligence is the success of interpersonal relationships (14-15).

### ♣ More than three authors

- Authors' names in reference
  - List only first author's last name followed by "et al." and the page number
    - (Last name et al. page number)
    - Ex. Emotional security varies depending on the circumstances of the social interaction (Carter et al. 158).
- Authors' names in text
  - Do not use the authors' last names in the citation if the authors' names appear in the text
    - (page number)
    - Ex. Carter et al. argues that emotional security varies depending on the circumstances of the social interaction (158).

## Documentation in the text: Quotes

- ♣ Quotations with one or multiple authors are cited as previously mentioned
- ♣ Difference is where the citation is placed in reference to the quote
  - Author's(s)' name in reference
    - Citation is placed after quotation mark
    - "Quoted Material" (Author's last name page number)



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- Ex. It may be true that “in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance” (Robertson 136).
- Author’s(s’) name in text
  - Do not use the authors’ last names in the citation if the authors’ names appear in the text
  - Citation is placed after quotation mark
  - “Quoted Material” (page number)
    - Ex. Ernest Rose writes, “The highly spiritual view of the world presented in *Siddhartha* exercised its appeal on West and East alike” (74).

## Documentation in the text: Block Quotes

- ♣ Block quotes are used only when quoting more than 4 lines (not sentences)
  - The entire block quote is indented
  - Only used when author is mentioned in the text
  - Page number at end is outside the period
  - Quotation marks are not used
    - Block Quote. (page number)
    - Ex. In his essay “Primitive and Pastoral Elements in Sherwood Anderson,” Glen Love states that George Willard’s departure from Winesburg to a life in the city represents Anderson’s attempts to connect America’s rural heritage to the modern world:  
Both the artist and his audience knew too well that they could not take to the woods or countryside. Yet Anderson’s literary works as well as the record of his personal life suggest that he actually believed that there is the possibility, if not of reclaiming the idealized pastoral myth, of at least making a new start based upon some of its enduring values. (245)

## Documentation in the text: Cyberdocuments

- ♣ Cite using author’s last name as previously mentioned
- ♣ If author’s name is missing, use title of article
- ♣ If author and title are missing, use web site name
  - Author’s(s’) name in reference
    - (Author’s last name/website address)
      - Ex. The Modern Language Association was founded in 1883 (mla.org).
  - Author’s(s’) name in text
    - Do not use the authors’ last names in the citation if the authors’ names appear in the text
      - (website)
        - Ex. According to the Modern Language Association’s (MLA) website, the MLA was founded in 1883 (mla.org).

## Works Cited Page

- ♣ Starts new page numbered sequentially
- ♣ Placed after the body of the paper
- ♣ “Work(s) Cited” is centered, without quotation marks, italics, or underlining
- ♣ Include all quoted, paraphrased, or summarized sources
- ♣ Start each entry on new line, regular left margin
- ♣ Indent the *second* and all subsequent lines five spaces (“hanging indent”)
- ♣ Double-space all lines
- ♣ Alphabetize by the author’s last name, book title, or website name
- ♣ **Authors’ Names**
  - For one author
    - Include the author’s name as it appears on the title page in reverse order, period at end
      - Ex. Mills, Stephanie R.
  - For multiple authors
    - First author = reverse order; all subsequent names = normal order, separated by commas, period at end
      - (Mills, Stephanie R., Bert W. Griggs, and Ronald H. Holland.)
- ♣ **Capitalization of Titles**
  - Capitalize all major words and the first and last words of all titles and subtitles
  - Don’t capitalize articles (a, an, the), prepositions (by, with, from), or coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet)
  - Underline the title, but not the period at the end
    - Ex. Catcher in the Rye.



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## ♣ Special Treatment of Titles

- Use quotation marks around titles of shorter works (articles, poems, short stories, essays)
- Underline titles of longer works (books, periodicals/journals, plays); MLA prefers underlined Times New Roman font (unless your instructor specifically requires italics)
- Drop A, An, or The as the first word of a periodical title
  - Ex. "Melancholy Gender/Refused Identification." The Judith Butler Reader.
  - The " " indicate the article is within the publication that is underlined

## ♣ Place of Publication

- Give only the first city listed for the place of publication
- Do not list state names, regardless how obscure the city
  - (City of publication: Publisher name,)
  - Ex. Malden: Blackwell,

## ♣ Publisher

- List publisher name after the city and colon followed by a comma
  - (City of publication: Publisher name,)
  - Ex. Malden: Blackwell,

## ♣ Publication Month Abbreviations

- Abbreviate all publication months except May, June, and July
- Use the first three letters followed by a period (Dec., Feb., Mar.) except for September (Sept.)
- Year follows month with a comma following the year
  - (Month Year,)
  - Ex. May 2002,

## ♣ Citing two or more texts by same author

- Give author name(s) in the first entry only; in subsequent entries, use three hyphens and a period
  - (Last name, first name)
  - (---.)
    - Ex. Van Delay, Art. Seinfeld: The Show About Nothing. New York: Penguin Books, 1997.
    - Ex. ---. Venetian Blinds: Contemporary Study of Compulsive Lying. New York: Pendant Publishing, 1994.

## ♣ Citing texts with no author

- Begin the citation with the title
- Alphabetize the entry according to the first significant word of the title, underlined, with a period at the end
  - (Title of Text.)
  - Ex. Creation of the Media: Political Origins of the Media. Los Angeles: Houghton-Mifflin, 1922.
  - Ex. The Chicago Manual of Style. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003.

## ♣ Citing Journal Articles

- Provide author name, article title, and publication information (periodical name, volume [and if necessary issue] number, publication date, and page numbers)
  - (Last name, First name. "Title of Article." Title of Periodical/Journal Volume number (Year of Publication): Page numbers where the article is found.
    - Ex. Tyson, Phyllis A., and Michael G. Gordon. "The Psychology of Women." Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association 46 (1998): 361-364.
    - Ex. Bernstein, Barton J. "Atomic Diplomacy: Hiroshima and Nagasaki." Diplomatic History 28.3 (1991): 126-129.
- Magazine/Newspaper Article
  - Provide the author's name, article title, where the article was published, date of publication, and page numbers
  - (Last name, First name. "Title of Article." Title of Periodical/Journal Date published: Page numbers where the article is found.
    - Ex. Kramer, Cosmo F. "A Health Threat Baffling for Its Lack of a Pattern." New York Times 22 June 2003, natl. ed.: A14.
    - Ex. Peterman, Jay S. "Eat This Now!" US News and World Report 28 Mar. 2005: 56-58.
    - Ex. Crane, Niles F. "Anarchy at Sea." Atlantic Monthly Sept. 2003: 50-80.



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## ♣ Citing Electronic Sources

- Citing Personal or Professional Websites
  - Title of website. Day Month Abbreviation Year site last updated. <web address>.
    - Ex. Colbert, Stephen. Home page. 1 Nov. 2006. <<http://colbertnation.com>>.
    - Ex. [American Association for Artificial Intelligence](http://www.aaai.org). 17 Mar. 2001 .<<http://www.aaai.org>>.
- Citing Online Daily Newspaper Article
  - Author's last name, Author's first name. "Title of Article." Title of Publication Day Month Abbreviation. Year of article. Day Month Abbreviation Year article accessed. <web address>.
    - Ex. Foreman, Red, Elizabeth Bennett, and Tom Collins. "In Forecasting Their Emotions, Most People Flunk Out." New York Times 16 Feb. 1999. 21 Nov. 2000. <<http://www.nytimes.com>>.
- Article accessed through a library subscription service
  - Author's last name, Author's first name. "Title of Article." Title of Publication Volume (Year of publication): pages article can be found. Name of database. Library Name, School library is located in. Day Month Abbreviation. Year article accessed.<web address>.
    - Ex. Jackson, Gabriel. "Multiple Historic Meanings of the Spanish Civil War." Science and Society 68.3 (2004): 272-76. Academic Search Premier Elite. EBSCO. Brookens Library, U of Illinois at Springfield. 27 Sept.2002. <<http://www.epnet.com>>.

## Sample Works Cited Page

### Works Cited

American Association for Artificial Intelligence. 17 Mar. 2001 .<<http://www.aaai.org>>.

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