

*Pollak Library Undergraduate Guide to the
MLA Citation Style
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.*

Academic research requires that you cite the sources you consult, to acknowledge the input and to give the reader directions to the material. It is your responsibility to confirm with your instructor which citation style to use for a particular assignment. MLA is used primarily in the humanities. **The examples below are not official.** To create a good Works Cited list or Bibliography and for correct citation, you *must* consult the print handbook. Copies are kept behind the ILC Reference & Research Services Desk on the first floor of Library North. **All formatting is at your professor's discretion.** See <http://www.mla.org/style> for more information.

There are two parts to correct MLA citation in a paper. The **Parenthetical Reference** takes a reader from an idea or quotation in the text of the paper to its source in the Works Cited page(s). Each **Works Cited** entry has the necessary source information to allow retrieval of the specific document. A parenthetical reference must be listed on the Works Cited pages and all Works Cited entries must be cited in the text. *Works Cited*, *Bibliography* or *Literature Cited* are all acceptable terms or titles for the page listing items cited in the text. *Works Consulted* or *Selected Bibliography* are broader and would include additional useful resources not cited in the text.

MLA Style Elements (numbers refer to specific parts of the *MLA Handbook*).

Parenthetical Documentation (6.1) is usually the author surname and page number(s) within parentheses, no comma.

- If the author is given in the paragraph, with clear identification to the point requiring citation, cite only the missing information in parenthesis.
- If you are referring to the entire work include it in the text rather than use a parenthetical reference (6.4.1)
- More than one work may be cited within one parenthetical reference. Use a semicolon to separate each reference (6.4.9)
- Citing from an original source is always recommended, but if an indirect or secondhand source is the only one available, use the abbreviation qtd in (for 'quoted in') within a parenthetical reference to the indirect source. Only the indirect source should be included in the Works Cited listing (6.4.7)

Examples:

Entire work	Febvre and Martin's <i>The Coming of the Book</i> examines the impact of
Number of authors	(Callanan and Jipson) (Clarke, Johnson, and Evans 228) (Jackson et al. 104) Leiker (54) notes that ... Jackson et al. (104) reported...
Two or more works by the same author [add first word(s) of title to distinguish entries, alphabetize within author by title word] 6.4.6	(Leiker, <i>Race</i> 220) (Leiker, <i>Racial</i> 133)
No author 6.4.4	("Baseball," par. 2)
Indirect Source 6.4.7	(qtd in Febvre and Martin 118)

Sample of the top of the first page of a Works Cited list: p. 131

~~**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:** 5.3 (p. 130) In addition to the appropriate citation, add a brief description of the material, highlighting the importance of the work (why you are using it). Consult your professor for specific assignment requirements.~~

~~5.3.3 (p. 133) Annotated Works Cited may use different citation ordering other than alphabetical: date, subject, resource, primary/secondary, etc.~~

Example:

~~Eisenstein, Elizabeth L. *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 1993. Print. This single volume edition is an abridgment of the original 2 volume classic. It surveys the radical changes in communications in the fifteenth century and documents the unexpected social, intellectual and political effects of printing on the Renaissance, the Reformation and the rise of modern science.~~

Works Cited entries contain Author (listed last name, first name). *Title* (italicized). Publication data. Medium of publication (e.g., Print, Web (5.6); for other media such as DVD, CD, Television etc., see 5.7; for works available in more than one media, see 5.8).

5.3.2 Use ½ inch or 5 space hanging indent for each entry, every line is **DOUBLE SPACED**.

3.6.1 For items published in English, capitalize most words in article, book and periodical titles. **For other Western European languages see 3.8.**

5.3.4, 5.5.4 Authors/editors: One to three authors, list all with complete names and any initials as given on the title page. More than 3 authors, list the first and add et al. (figure 20 or you can choose to list all).

5.5.2 Publication information:

7.1-4 Abbreviations can be unusual. Check the *Handbook*: US state abbreviations are used; ed. and vol., supp. are used; & (ampersand) is not used unless part of a title. Months are abbreviated in Works Cited (except May, June, July); complete in text.

7.5 Publisher information

- o Shorten publishers names so that they are distinguishable, but not necessarily complete (John Wiley = Wiley; Harcourt, Brace and World = Harcourt). For university (U) presses, always add the P (U of California P)

- o Use only the first place of publication if several are listed. Add state, province or country for unfamiliar cities

5.7.7 Personal interview: Name of interviewee. Type (e.g., Personal, Telephone, Print, Radio, E-mail interview). Date. (see p. 202)

PERIODICAL ARTICLES: Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* vol. (Date): pages. Medium (Print or Web).

5.4.2 Quotation marks around the article title, *Italicize* the periodical (e.g., magazine or journal) title.

Journal articles: 5.4.2+ For journals that start every issue with page 1 rather than continuous paginations, add a period (no space) and the issue number after the volume (e.g., *Journal Title* 11.2)

Print	5.4.1	Jackson, Yo, et al. "Family Protective Factors and Behavioral Outcome: The Role of Appraisal in Family Life Events." <i>Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders</i> 11 (2003): 103-111. Print.
Online Database	5.6.4	Jackson, Yo, et al. "Family Protective Factors and Behavioral Outcome: The Role of Appraisal in Family Life Events." <i>Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders</i> 11 (2003): 103-111. <i>Academic Search Premier</i> . Web. 4 Aug. 2009.

Popular magazine articles: 5.7.6 same as scholarly except for date: use the complete date and no volume number.

Print	5.4.6	Gorman, Christine. "Comfort in a Bowl: Sweets and Fatty Foods Really Do Relieve Stress, but There Is a Price to Pay." <i>Time</i> 29 Sept. 2003: 77. Print.
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Reviews: 5.4.7 Reviewer. Rev. of *Title of the Book Being Reviewed*, by Author. Publication data. *Italicize* the title of the reviewed item and the periodical title.

Print		Cantu, Robert. Rev. of <i>Rewriting North American Borders in Chicano and Chicana Narrative</i> , by Monika Kaup. <i>Modern Language Quarterly</i> 64 (2003): 508-13. Print.
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Newspaper articles: with and without author 5.4.5

Print	(author)	Stout, David. "F.A.A. Orders Toddler Seats on Airliners." <i>New York Times</i> 16 Dec. 1999, late ed.: A17. Print.
	(no author)	"Baseball Owners Approve Dodgers Sale." <i>New York Times</i> 30 Jan. 2004, late ed.: D2. Print.
Online from database version		Stout, David. "F.A.A. Orders Toddler Seats on Airliners." <i>New York Times</i> 16 Dec. 1999, late ed.: A17. <i>LexisNexis Academic</i> . Web. 4 Aug. 2009.
Online from Publisher version	5.6.2	Stout, David. "F.A.A. Orders Toddler Seats on Airliners." <i>New York Times</i> . New York Times, 16 Dec. 1999. Web. 4 Aug. 2009.

BOOK: and other non-periodicals (report, etc.): 5.5.1 Author/editor. *Title of work*. City: Publisher, year.

Paper		Leiker, James N. <i>Racial Borders: Black Soldiers Along the Rio Grande</i> . College Station, TX: Texas A&M UP, 2002. Print.
Online		Leiker, James N. <i>Racial Borders: Black Soldiers Along the Rio Grande</i> . College Station, TX: Texas A&M UP, 2002. <i>NetLibrary</i> . Web. 4 Aug. 2009.

Article or chapter in a book: 5.5.6 Author. "Title of chapter." *Title of book*. Ed. Editor name. Location: Publisher, year. Pages. Medium (Print or Web).

Paper		Callanan, Maureen A., and Jennifer L. Jipson. "Explanatory Conversations and Young Children's Developing Scientific Literacy." <i>Designing for Science: Implications from Everyday, Classroom, and Professional Settings</i> . Ed. Kevin Crowley, Christian D. Schunn, and Takeshi Okada. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum, 2001. 21-50. Print.
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Article in an encyclopedia: 5.5.7 Author. "Topic." *Title*. ed.. Location: publisher, year. [vol. X, pp. x-xx (if not alphabetical in order)]. Medium (Print or Web).

Paper		Katz, Israel. J. "Flamenco." <i>The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians</i> . 2 nd ed. London: Macmillan, 2001. Print.
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WEB DOCUMENTS: 5.6. Author. "Title of work" (if part of a larger work). *Title of website*. Publisher/Sponsor. Date of publication. Medium (Web). Date of access.

Government Website	5.6.2 & 5.5.20	United States. National Institute of Child Health and Development [NICHD] Public Information and Communications Branch. <i>Fact Sheet: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome</i> . NICHD. Apr. 1997. Web. 4 Aug. 2009.
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