MLA Style (7ᵗʰ Edition)

When writing a research paper, we "enter into a community of writers and scholars" (Gibaldi xiii) who agree to follow "rules" in writing and using sources. These rules are written down in handbooks like the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (MLA), which offer guidelines for everything from how the research is presented (the style), to how it looks (the format), and how to incorporate sources (citation).

MLA is most commonly used by scholars and writers in the humanities and liberal arts. This style requires writers to acknowledge each source use in two ways:

1. In the body of the paper—known as **in-text citations** or **parenthetical citations**
2. On a works cited list at the end of the paper—known as the **works cited** page

WHY USE MLA?

Generally, MLA is known for its simplicity, flexibility and ease of use, but, more specifically, using MLA allows you to:

- establish your credibility or ethos;
- be responsible in how you use sources;
- help your readers find the sources you used;
- help your readers distinguish your ideas from those of others;
- and, finally, "protect [yourself] from accusations of plagiarism, which is the purposeful or accidental uncredited use of source material by other writers" (*The Purdue Owl*).

GENERAL MLA GUIDELINES

- **Cite** all the sources you have consulted and the ideas you derived whether they are direct quotations, paraphrases, or summaries.
- Begin the works cited list on a separate page.
- **Double-space** all the paper including the works cited page.
- Use *Times New Roman* and **12 font.**
- Set the paper at **1 inch** on all the margins.
- Indent the first line of each paragraph.
- In right upper corner of the header, type your surname and number all the pages.

Note: You can find a full sample MLA paper in the *MLA Handbook* or by following the link below:
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090701095636_747.pdf

1. IN-TEXT OR PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS IN MLA

Whether you are quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing, you need to cite the ideas you borrow from each source and indicate where in the source you found the ideas—we call these in-text citations. Usually, MLA requires writers to include the author's name and page number(s) in parentheses, but the rules vary. The following are some basic rules and examples:

a) The information you provide about any source in the parenthetical citation must match with the information you provide about the source in the works cited page. See the following example:

Medieval Europe was a place both of "raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion" and of "traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns if not cities, and active markets in grain" (Townsend 10). ← *Parenthetical Citation*

Townsend, Robert M. *The Medieval Village Economy*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993. Print. ← *In the works cited page*

b) You could use **a signal phrase** to introduce a source or include all the source information in the parenthetical citation. See the following examples:

Chan claims that "Eagleton has belittled the gains of postmodernism" (par. 41).

Author   *Signal Phrase*   *Page Reference*

Between 1968 and 1988, television coverage of presidential elections changed dramatically (Hallin 5). ← *Author and page no. in parentheses*

- For a more detailed list of in-text citation rules and examples, follow the link below: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/

- For more examples of **signal phases** to introduce sources, consult *They Say/I Say*.

- The citation examples and rules on this handout are adapted from *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers: 7th. Ed* and The Purdue OWL Web site

2. A WORKS CITED PAGE

PERIODICALS (Drawn from *The MLA Handbook*)

An Article in a Scholarly Journal

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume. Issue
(Year): pages. Medium of publication.

Piper, Andrew. "Rethinking the Print Object: Goethe and the
Book of Everything." *PMLA* 121.1 (2006): 124-38.
Print.

An Article in a Magazine

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month
Year: pages. Medium of publication.

Weintraub, Arlene, and Laura Cohen. "A Thousand-Year
Plan for Nuclear Waste." *Business Week* 6 May 2002:
94-96. Print.

> **Note:** For rules to cite an article in a newspaper, a review, an editorial,
> and similar sources, consult the MLA handbook OR follow the link
> below:
> https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/07/

ELECTRONIC SOURCES (The Purdue Owl)

An Entire Web Site

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*.
Version number. Name of institution/organization
affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of
resource creation (if available). Medium of
publication. Date of access.

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL
at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.

A Tweet

User's Last Name, First Name (Twitter username). "The entire
tweet." Date of posting, time of posting (Reader's
time zone). Tweet.

Brokaw, Tom (tombrokaw). "SC demonstrated why all the
debates are the engines of this campaign." 22 Jan.
2012, 3:06 a.m. Tweet.

> **Notes:** For rules to cite a page on Web site, an image from the Web, an
> article in a Web magazine, an article in an online scholarly journal, an
> article from an online database, e-mail, YouTube videos, blogposts, and
> similar sources, consult the MLA Handbook or follow the link below:
> https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/
>
> Also, for rules to cite an interview, speeches, lectures, or other oral
> presentations, published conference proceedings, films or movies,
> broadcast television or radio program, and similar sources, consult the
> MLA Handbook or follow the link below:
> https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/09/

BOOKS (Drawn from *The MLA Handbook*)

A Book by a Single Author

Last name, First name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication:
Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of
Publication.

Johnson, Roberta. *Gender and Nation in the Spanish
Modernist Novel*. Nashville: Vanderbilt UP, 2003.
Print.

A Book by Two or More Authors

The first name appears in last name, first name format;
subsequent author names appear in first name last name
format.

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M.
Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 2nd ed. Chicago:
U of Chicago P, 2003. Print.

A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection

Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*.
Ed. Editor's Name(s). City of Publication:
Publisher, Year. Page range of entry. Medium of
Publication.

Bordo, Susan. "The Moral Content of Nabokov's *Lolita.*"
Aesthetic Subjects. Ed. Pamela R. Matthews and
David McWhirter. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P,
2003. 125-52. Print.

> **Note:** For rules to cite an edition of a book, a book by a corporate
> author or organization, an anthology or collection, an introduction, and
> similar sources, consult the MLA Handbook or follow the link below:
> https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/06/

What should my Works Cited page look like?

1 inch on all margins

Alphabetized

Hanging indentation

Surname and Page no. in heading

Times New Romans & 12 Font

Double-Spaced

Al-Khateeb 15

Works Cited

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema."
Postmodern Culture 10.3 (2000): n. pag. *Project
Muse*. Web. 20 May 2002.

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research
Papers: 7th. Ed.* New York: Modern Language
Association of America, 2009. Print.

The Purdue OWL. Purdue U Writing Lab, 2010. Web.
Date of access. 2006. Web. 24 May 2009.