BASIC GUIDE FOR
MLA CITATION STYLE

The Modern Language Association's style guide is commonly used in the humanities. MLA produces two style manuals: the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (a.k.a. MLA Handbook) is for high school and undergraduate students and the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing is for graduate students, scholars and professional writers. The guide below follows the MLA Handbook, 6th edition. Consult the MLA Handbook for complete explanations and further examples.

part 1. complete citations | part 2. in-text citations | part 3. resources | FAQs

part 1: complete citations for works cited & bibliographies
BOOKS

book by a single author, 5.6.1

format:

Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication.

example:

Vaidhyanathan, Siva. The Anarchist in the Library: How the Clash Between Freedom and Control is Leaving Cyberspace and Entering the Real World. New York: Basic, 2004.

book by two or three authors, 5.6.4

format:

Author #1's Last Name, First Name, and Author #2's First Name Last Name. Title. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication.

example:

Cloonan, Martin, and Reebee Garofalo. Policing Pop. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 2003.

a work in an anthology, 5.6.7

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Work." Title of Anthology. Ed. Editor's First and Last Name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication.

example:

Philips, Katherine. "A Married State." The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Ed. M.H. Abrams and Stephen Greenblatt. 7th ed. New York: Norton, 2000.

a government publication, 5.6.21

There are many ways to cite government documents. See section 5.6.21 for more examples.

basic format:

Name of Government. Name of Agency. Title. Number of Congress, Session of Congress. Number of Publication. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication.

example:

United States. Cong. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary. Online Entertainment and Copyright Law: Coming Soon to a Digital Device Near You. Hearing Before the Committee on the Judiciary. 107th Cong., 1st sess. Washington: GPO, 2002.

PERIODICALS

a scholarly journal with continuous pagination, 5.7.1

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Title of Journal</u> Volume (Date of Publication): Page Numbers.

example:

Gershuny, Jonathan. "Web Use and Net Nerds: A Neofunctionalist Analysis of the Impact of Information Technology in the Home." <u>Social Forces</u> 82 (2003): 141-168.

a scholarly journal that pages each issue separately, 5.7.2

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Title of Journal</u> Volume Number.Issue Number (Date of Publication): Page Numbers.

example:

Levin, Yuval. "Politics After the Internet." <u>Public Interest</u> 149.4 (2002): 89-94.

an article in a newspaper, 5.7.5

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Name of Newspaper</u> [City of Publication if not in title] Day Month Year of Publication, Edition: Page Number(s).

example:

Harmon, Amy. "Suit Settled for Students Downloading Music Online." <u>New York Times</u> 2 May 2003, late ed.: A22+.

an article in a magazine, 5.7.6

*for **weekly magazines**, give the complete date*

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Name of Magazine</u> Day Month Year of Publication: Page Numbers.

example:

Rothman, Wilson. "Sound Check: The New Napster." <u>Time</u> 20 Oct. 2003: 82.

*for **magazines published every month or every two months**, give month or months and year*

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Name of Magazine</u> Month Year of Publication: Page Numbers.

example:

Guntzel, Jeff. "Talkin' 'Bout a [Platform] Revolution: A Morality Play in 8 Bits Plays Out as the Battle for Digital Music Downloading Reaches Independent Labels." <u>Punk Planet: Notes from the Underground</u> Jan.-Feb. 2004: 64-71.

TV, FILM, RADIO & INTERVIEWS

a television or radio program, 5.8.1

format:

"Title of Episode or Segment (if appropriate)." <u>Title of Program</u>. Title of Series (if any), Name of Network. Call Letters and City of Local Station. Broadcast Date.

example:

"Tales from the Public Domain." <u>The Simpsons</u>. FOX. KTTV FOX, Los Angeles. 17 March 2002.

a sound recording, 5.8.2
First name cited depends on desired emphasis, e.g., the composer, conductor, performer, etc. Include the medium if other than a CD (e.g., include "Audiocassette" or "LP") before the manufacturer's name.

entire work

format:

Artist/Composer's Name. <u>Title of Recording</u>. Manufacturer, Year of Issue.

example:

Smith, Elliot. <u>XO</u>. Dreamworks, 1998.

specific song:

format:

Artist/Composer's Name. "Title of Song." <u>Title of Recording</u>. Manufacturer, Year of Issue.

example:

Smith, Elliot. "I Didn't Understand." <u>XO</u>. Dreamworks, 1998.

a film or video recording, 5.8.3
Include title, director's name, distributor and year of release. You may include other information if relevant. If you are citing a DVD, videocassette, etc., include original release date, format and date of release in new format.

format:

<u>Title</u>. Dir. Name of Director. First and Last Name of Performers. Distributor, Year of Release.

example:

<u>This is Spinal Tap</u>. Dir. Rob Reiner. Perf. Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, Harry Shearer, Rob Reiner, June Chadwick, Tony Hendra, and Bruno Kirby. 1984. DVD. MGM Home Entertainment, 2000.

an interview, 5.8.7
published interviews

format:

Last Name, First Name of Person Interviewed. Interview with First and Last Name of Interviewer (if known and pertinent). "Title of Interview" (if any). <u>Publication Title</u> Publication Information.

example:

Ulrich, Lars. "Lars Attacks!" Interview with Chris Norris. <u>Spin</u> July 2003: 76.

interview broadcast on radio or television

format:

Last Name, First Name of Person Interviewed.
Interview with First and Last Name of
Interviewer (if known and pertinent).
"Name of Program or Segment (if any)."
Title of Program (if any). Name of Network
(if any). Call Letters of Radio or Television
Station, City. Broadcast Date.

example:

Ridge, Tom. Interview. Kevin and Bean Show.
KROQ-FM, Los Angeles. 22 Dec. 2003.

interview conducted by researcher

format:

Last Name, First Name of Person Interviewed. Type
of Interview (e.g., personal, telephone,
email). Day Month Year of Interview.

example:

Griffin, Stewart. Personal Interview. 20 Jan. 2004.

ONLINE SOURCES

an entire internet site, 5.9.2

Be sure to consult with the MLA Handbook *for more on citing websites, individual web pages and more online sources.*

format:

Title of Site. Ed. First and Last Name of Editor of
Site (if available). Date of Electronic
Publication or Update. Name of Sponsoring
Institution or Organization. Date of Access
<URL>.

example:

Copyright Website. Ed. Benedict O'Mahony. 2002.
Copyright Website LLC. 20 Jan. 2004
<http://www.benedict.com/>.

online government publication, 5.9.3c

Begin with the same information for a print source, and end with information for electronic sources.

format:

Name of Government. Name of Agency. Title.
Number of Publication. Date of
Publication. Date of Access <URL>.

example:

United States. Copyright Office. Fair Use. FL-102.
January 2004. 20 Jan. 2004
<http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.pdf>.

online periodicals, 5.9.4 *(for articles through a library-subscription database, see 5.9.7)*

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Artitcle." Title of
Periodical. Volume Number.Issue Number
(Date of Publication): Page Numbers.
Name of Database (if applicable). Date of
Access. <URL>.

example:

Brown, Malcolm B. and Joan K. Lippincott.
"Learning Spaces: More than Meets the
Eye." Educause Quarterly 26.1 (2003): 14-
16. Educause. 20 Jan. 2004
<http://www.educause.edu/ir/
library/pdf/eqm0312.pdf>.

online newspaper, 5.9.4b

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Name of Newspaper</u> Day Month Year of Publication. Date of Access <URL>.

example:

Heingartner, Douglas. "Software Piracy Is in Resurgence, With New Safeguards Eroded by File Sharing." <u>New York Times</u> 19 Jan. 2004. 20 Jan. 2004. <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/01/19/technology/19soft.html?pagewanted=all>.

an article in an online magazine, 5.9.4c

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Name of Magazine</u> Month and Year of Publication or Issue. Date of Access <URL>.

example:

Devenish, Colin. "RIAA Can't Shakedown ISPs: Recording Industry Suffers Setback in Digital War." <u>Rolling Stone</u> Dec. 2003. 18 Jan. 2004 <http://www.rollingstone.com/news/newsarticle.asp?nid=19126>.

a work from a subscription service, 5.9.7 *(available through library resources)*

Follow the citation format for the print version, but add the name of the database, the service (if known), the name of the library or library system, location, and the date of access. If the database only gives the starting page number of the article, include it with a hyphen, space and period (e.g., "147- ."). Include the URL of the service's homepage if you know it. Otherwise, end with the date of access.

format:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <u>Title of Journal</u> Volume (Date of Publication): Page Numbers. <u>Name of Database</u>. Name of Service. Library of Location, Library Name. Date of Access <URL>.

example:

Deery, June. "TV.com: Participatory Viewing on the Web." <u>Journal of Popular Culture</u> 37 (2003): 161- . <u>Expanded Academic ASAP</u>. Infotrac/Gale Group. UCLA Library, Los Angeles. 20 Jan. 2004.

film clip online, 5.9.9c

If you are citing the contribution of a particular person, begin with that person's name.

format:

Last Name, First Name, dir. <u>Title</u>. Production Company (if known). Date. <u>Point/Site of Access</u>. Date of Access <URL>.

example:

Peshak, Ted, dir. <u>Are You Popular</u>? Coronet Instructional Films. 1947. <u>Internet Archive Prelinger Archives</u>. 18 Jan. 2004 < http://www.archive.org/ movies/details-db.php?collection=prelinger&collectionid=00014>.

an email communication, 5.9.9j

format:

Last Name of Writer, First Name. "Title of Message Taken from Subject Line." E-mail to First and Last Name of Recipient. Date of Message.

example:

Griffin, Brian. "Re: Copyright Infringement Question." E-mail to Glen Quagmire. 20 Jan. 2004.

PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS BASICS

In-text citations direct the reader to the complete citation in your list of works cited.

<u>If you are citing the entire work</u>, MLA recommends that you include the author and title of the work within your text.

format:

"blah blah blah **author's name and <u>title</u>** blah blah."

example:

"blah blah Freud's <u>Leonardo da Vinci: A Study in Psychosexuality</u> blah blah."

<u>To cite a portion of the work</u>, include the page numbers as well as the author's name.

If you include the author's name in your text, cite the page numbers in parentheses at the end of your sentence before the final punctuation mark.

format:

"blah blah blah **author's name** blah blah" (**page numbers**).

example:

"blah blah blah Freud blah blah" (47-51).

If you do not include the author's name in your text, cite the author's last name and page numbers in parentheses at the end of your sentence before the final punctuation mark.

format:

"blah blah blah blah blah" (**author's last name page number**).

example:

"blah blah blah blah blah" (Freud 47-50).

<u>if you have two or three authors, 6.2</u>

mentioned in text:

"According to Giles, Harris, and Rosenberg blah blah blah" (610).

not mentioned in text:

"blah blah blah blah blah" (Giles, Harris, and Rosenberg 610).

<u>more than three authors, 6.2</u>

mentioned in text:

"As the Chase research team concludes, blah blah blah" (223-231).

not mentioned in text:

"blah blah blah" (Chase et al. 223-231).

<u>a work listed by title (no author) 6.4.4</u>

mentioned in text:

"In the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> editorial titled 'Steal this CD,' blah blah blah" (B12).

not mentioned in text: *(shorten the title)*

"blah blah blah" ("Steal" B12).

a work listed by a corporate author 6.4.5

mentioned in text:

"According to the World Health Organization blah blah blah" (17).

not mentioned in text: *(shorten the name if possible)*

"blah blah blah" (WHO 17).

quoting an indirect source 6.4.7

mentioned in text:

"Simpson concludes with Kennedy's famous line, 'blah blah blah'" (236).

not mentioned in text:

"blah blah, as Kenney eloquently stated, 'blah blah blah'" (qtd. in Simpson 236).

works without page numbers 6.4.1

For works without page numbers (e.g., films, sound recordings, electronic sources, etc.), "the work must be cited in its entirety" within your text (Gibaldi 44). Include the title and author/creator.

part 3: resources
IN PRINT

Gibaldi, Joseph, ed. <u>MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers</u>. 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003.

Available at College Library, Main Reading Room (case behind the reference desk)
LB2369.G532003

ONLINE

- "What is MLA Style?"
  From the Modern Language Association
  http://www.mla.org/style
- Bruin Success with Less Stress, Resources for UCLA Students
  http://www.library.ucla.edu/bruinsuccess/
  (click on "Resources for UCLA Students" at the bottom of the page for links to online guides to citation styles)

part 4: frequently asked questions

Where do I put my Works Cited?
Your Works Cited comes at the end of your paper. Start with a new page, but continue the paper's pagination.

How do I indent the entries on my Works Cited?
The first line of each entry is flushed left, with subsequent lines indented ½ an inch to the right.

How do I arrange my Works Cited?
Arrange the list in alphabetical order based on the last name of the author using the letter-by-letter system (e.g., MacFarlane would come before McDonald).

What if the work doesn't have an author?
Use the first word of the title (ignoring "a," "an" or "the") to alphabetize.

What if the work has more than three authors?
If a source has more than three authors, include the name of the first author listed on the title page, followed by a comma and "et al." (for "and others").

What if two or more of my sources are by the same author in my Works Cited?
List the author's name in the first entry. Replace the author's name with three hyphens (---) in following entries. Arrange works by the same author in alphabetical order by title. (5.6.3)

How should I space my Works Cited?
Double-space the entire list—do not add extra space between entries.

What if more than one copyright date is given?
Use the most recent.

What if more than one city of publication is given?
Use the first listed.

Do I italicize or underline titles?
Section 3.3 states, "In research papers and manuscripts submitted for publication, words that would be italicized in print are best underlined… In material that will be graded, edited, or typeset… the type style of every letter and punctuation mark must be easily recognizable. Italic type is sometimes not distinctive enough for this purpose, and you can avoid ambiguity by using underlining when you intend italics. If you wish to use italics rather than underlining, check your instructor's preferences…" (Gibaldi 94).

works cited for this guide…

Gibaldi, Joseph, ed. <u>MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers</u>. 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003.