

# MLA Format

## *Citing & Giving Credit to Sources*

This short guide describes how to cite commonly used sources in MLA (Modern Language Association) format. For sources not listed here, refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Copies of this book are available at the **Reserve Desk (PE1478 M165 2009)**. If you need further help, ask the Reference Librarian. Some examples are taken directly from the *MLA Handbook*.

### Parenthetical Citation

References in the text of your paper must clearly point to specific sources in the list of Works Cited. For more examples of parenthetical citations, see pp. 213-231 in the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> ed).

#### **Author's name is not in the Sentence:**

The effects of ultraviolet radiation may be harmful to people who are not protected (Davidson 71).

#### **Author's Name is in the Sentence:**

Researcher John Davidson contends that "exposure to radiation is a constant risk" (71).

#### **More than One Work by the Same Author:**

One theory asserts that "any level of sun exposure" may cause cancer (Standish, *Skin Cancer* 145).  
Sunscreens insulate and protect the skin (Standish, *Cancer and You* 334).

#### **Two or Three Authors:**

Economists blame sunburn for the recent economic slump (Barnes, Johnson, and Smith 377-79).

#### **No Author Listed:**

An increase in sunscreen sales indicates a growing awareness of cancer risk (*Sunscreen* 71).  
Tanning beds cause premature wrinkles and increase the risk of skin cancer ("The Perfect Tan" 42).

#### **No Page Numbers (e.g. electronic resources):**

Refer to internal headings (*chapter, section*) or paragraph numbers (*abbreviate as "par." or "pars.":*)  
Sunscreens provide "free cosmetic surgery" (Holmes, sec. 4).

*When there are no internal headings, provide the author's name in the sentence (or the title). It should be the same information that begins the corresponding entry in the Works Cited list:*

Researcher Ann Taylor notes that "one size fits all."

*Sunscreen Facts* reports that sunscreen use has increased over the past 20 years.

In the conclusion of their report, the Sunscreen Association recommends reapplying sunscreen.

## Works Cited Page

Double-space entries and list in alphabetical order by the author's last name. If no author is given, alphabetize by the first word of the entry, disregarding *a, an, or the*. Indent all lines of each entry one-half inch (or five spaces) except the first line.

### **Books (5.5)**

For more information about citing book sources, refer to pp. 148-180 of the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> ed).

#### Format:

Author's name. *Title of the Book*. Edition. Volume(s) used. City of Publication: Name of Publisher, Year of

Publication. Medium (Medium means the format, such as "Print" or "Web").

Examples:

**One Author (5.5.2)**

Welland, Michael. *Sand: The Never-Ending Story*. Berkeley: U of California P, 2009. Print.

**Two or More Authors (5.5.4)**

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

**Editor (ed.) or Compiler (comp.) Instead of Author (5.5.3)**

Tenaglia-Webster, Maria, ed. *Drugs*. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2009. Print.

**A Work in an Anthology (5.5.6):** an essay, short story, poem, or other work that appears in a collection

**-- Original**

More, Hannah. "The Black Slave Trade: A Poem." *British Women Poets of the Romantic Era*. Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472-82. Print.

**-- Reprint**

Holladay, Hillary. "Narrative Space in Ann Petry's *Country Place*." *Xavier Review* 16.1 (1996): 21-35.  
Rpt. in *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*. Ed. Linda Pavlovski and Scott Darga. Vol. 112.  
Detroit: Gale, 2002. 356-62. Print.

**Articles in Reference Books (5.5.7)**

Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. Ed. Stephen G. Post. 3rd ed. Vol. 4. New York: Macmillan-Thomson, 2004. Print.

**Periodicals (5.4)**

For more information about citing periodical sources, consult pp. 136-148 in the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.).

Format for Scholarly Journals:

Author's name. "Title of the article." *Name of the periodical* Volume.Issue (Year): page numbers. Medium  
(Medium means the format, such as "Print" or "Web").

Format for Magazines or Newspapers:

Author's name. "Title of the article." *Name of the periodical* Day Month Year, edition (if relevant): page numbers. Medium (Medium means the format, such as "Print" or "Web").

Examples:

**Scholarly Journals (5.4.2)**

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3 (1981): 77-80. Print.

**Magazine (5.4.6)**

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

**Newspaper (5.4.5)**

McKay, Peter A. "Stocks Feel the Dollar's Weight." *Wall Street Journal* 4 Dec. 2006: C1+. Print.

## **Electronic Publications (5.6 – 5.7)**

**Information about URLs:** It is only necessary to include a URL when your reader cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it. If you include a URL, it should be placed in brackets, for example: <http://www.cnn.com>. Place the URL after the date of access.

### **Websites (5.6.2)**

For more information about citing web publications, refer to pp. 181-193 of the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> ed).

#### Format:

Author's name. "Title of the webpage." *Title of the website*. Version or edition used. Publisher or sponsor of the site (if not available, use N.p.), Publication date (if nothing is available, use n.d.). Medium (Medium means the format, such as "Print" or "Web"). Date of access.

#### Examples:

"de Kooning, Willem." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

Lessig, Lawrence. "Free Debates: More Republicans Call on RNC." *Lessig 2.0*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 May 2008.

"Maplewood, New Jersey." Map. *Google Maps*. Google, 15 May 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

Quade, Alex. "Elite Team Rescues Troops behind Enemy Lines." *CNN.com*. Cable News Network, 19 Mar. 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

"Six Charged in Alleged N.J. Terror Plot." *WNBC.com*. WNBC, 8 May 2007. Web. 9 May 2007.

### **A website containing a work that also appeared in print (5.6.2.c)**

First, cite the document according to its print format guidelines. Then, add: *Title of Web site*. Medium (Medium means the format, such as "Print" or "Web"). Date of access.

#### Example:

Child, L. Maria, ed. *The Freedmen's Book*. Boston, 1866. *Google Book Search*. Web. 15 May 2008.

### **Videos on the Internet (5.6.2.d)**

For more information about citing web videos, refer to pp. 189-90 and 197-99 of the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> ed).

#### Format:

Name of Individual or Performer (if relevant). *Title of film*. Director. Distributor, Date of Release. *Title of database or website*. Medium (Medium means the format, such as "Print" or "Web"). Date of access.

#### Examples:

*The Great Train Robbery*. Dir. Edward Porter. Thomas Edison, 1903. *Internet Archive*. Web. 5 June 2008.

Obama, Barack. *Weekly Address: Credit Card Reform*, 9 May 2009. *The White House Blog*. Web. 12 May 2009.

*San Diego Trolley Crossing Over the Sweetwater River*. Chula Vista Productions, 2 Mar 2009. *Youtube.com*. Web. 12 May 2009.

## **Library and Online Databases (5.6.4)**

Library and Online Databases may contain a variety of types of materials, including articles, entire books, book chapters, videos, visual art, transcripts, audio files, and other items. For more information about citing from databases, refer to pp. 192-93 of the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> ed).

### **Format:**

First, cite the document according to its print format guidelines. Then, add: *Title of Database*. Medium (Medium means the format, such as "Print" or "Web"). Date of access.

### **Examples:**

#### **Periodical Articles**

Applebaum, Anne. "A Panic to Welcome: A Little Fear Goes a Long Way in Fighting a Pandemic." Editorial.

*Washington Post* 12 May 2009, final ed.: A21. *ProQuest National Newspapers Core*. Web. 13 May 2009.

Goldstein, Andrew. "A Win for the Kitties." *Time* 24 June 2002: 20. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 13 May 2009.

Ybarra, Michele L. et al. "Linkages Between Internet and Other Media Violence with Seriously Violent Behavior by Youth." *Pediatrics* 122.5 (2008): 929-37. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 13 May 2009.

Schmidt, Gary D. "Steinbeck's 'Breakfast': A Reconsideration." *Western American Literature* 26.4 (1992): 303-11. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 13 May 2009.

#### **Books**

Koplan, Jeffrey, Catharyn T. Liverman and Vivica I. Kraak. *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance*. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press, 2005. *NetLibrary*. Web. 13 May 2009.

"Fusel Oil." *Benders' Dictionary of Nutrition and Food Technology*. Ed. David A. Bender and Arnold E. Bender. Cambridge, England: Woodhead, 2006. *NetLibrary*. Web. 13 May 2009.

#### **Visual Art**

Chagall, Marc. *The Poet with the Birds*. 1911. Oil on canvas. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis. *ARTstor*. Web. 13 May 2009.

## **Miscellaneous Print and Nonprint Sources (5.7)**

Pages 193-211 of the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) provide guidelines for miscellaneous sources such as Television Programs, Radio Programs, Sound Recordings, Film or Video, Performance, Musical Composition, Painting, Sculpture, Photograph, Interview, Map, Cartoon, Advertisement, Speech, Manuscript, E-mail or Letter.