

Citing Your Sources -- MLA Citation Style – 6th ed.

To avoid plagiarism, students using direct quotes, ideas and facts from other sources need to identify the source of the information. These directions will help you understand how to include this information in your paper. For more complex questions, copies of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. can be found in the library.

Parenthetical Notes

MLA citation style requires parenthetical citations in the text of the document. For the parenthetical citation it is usually enough to list the author's last name and the page from which the quote or idea was taken.

If you are using someone else's idea and it is not a direct quote it should be written using the following format.

Examples of how you could cite ideas from research done by Dr. Smith in the text of the paper:

In a recent study of reaction times ... (Smith 119).

In 1983 Smith compared reaction times ... (119).

Examples of how you could cite ideas from research done by two authors, Smith and Jones:

In a recent study of reaction times ... (Smith and Jones 120-21).

In 1983 Smith and Jones compared reaction times ... (120-21).

Examples for citing research when no author is listed:

According to the Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, the tuba ... (333-37).

The tuba is a member of the brass ... (Grove's 333-37).

If you are using someone else's idea as a direct quote it should be written using the following format. Remember to use the quotation marks.

Two examples of how you could cite the same quote by Miele:

Miele found that "The placebo effect...disappeared when ..." (276).

She stated, "The placebo effect ...disappeared when studied" (Miele 276).

Two examples of how you could cite a quote by two authors, Miele and Fife:

Miele and Fife found that "The placebo effect ...disappeared when" (276).

They stated, "The placebo effect ...disappeared when studied" (Miele and Fife 276).

Examples for citing direct quote when no author is listed:

According to the Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, "the tuba ..." (333-37).

"The tuba is a member of the brass ..." (Grove's 333-37).

Using Indented Quotations

If a quotation is more than four lines in your paper, indent the text of the quotation by 10 spaces (1"). Do not enclose in quotation marks. Remember to give credit to the author either in a parenthetical note or in the body of the paper.

Example:

In Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty* the horse describes his memories in human terms:

The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Some shady trees leaned over it, and rushes and water-lilies grew at the deep end. Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house, which stood by the roadside; at the

top of the meadow was a grove of fir trees, and at the bottom a running brook overhung
by a steep bank. (Sewell 1)

Underlining and Using Quotation Marks in MLA format

MLA has some general rules for underlining and using quotation marks.

Underline names of:

Books

Movies

Journal or Magazine Title

Recording

Play Collections

Title of Short Story Anthologies

Use quotations around:

“Articles”

“Short stories”

“Poems”

“Song titles”

Putting references on the works cited page, examples:

Book with single author -- Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. Title of Book. [capitalize all words of the title except
articles] Place of Publication: Publisher, date of publication.

Sample Citation

Bernstein, T. M. The Careful Writer: A Modern Guide to English Usage. New York: Atheneum, 1965.

Book with two or three authors -- Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial, Author's First Name and Middle Initial and Last Name
and Author's First Name and Middle Initial and Last Name. Title of Book. [capitalize all words of the title
except articles] Place of Publication: Publisher, date of publication.

Sample Citation

Horgan, T., J. Tienson and S. Hanson. Connectionism and the Philosophy of Psychology. Cambridge: MIT
Press, 1996.

Book with more than three authors – Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial., et al. Title of Book. [capitalize all words of the title
except articles] Place of Publication: Publisher, date of publication.

Sample Citation

Abel, E., et al. Female Subjects in Black and White. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.

Works in an anthology – Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial "Title of Work." Title of the Anthology. Editor/Translator name. Place of Publication: Publisher, date of publication. Page number.

Sample Citation

Berns, Walter. "Morality of Anger." Capital Punishment: A Reader. Ed. Glenn H. Stassen. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1998. 15-25.

Encyclopedia article – Basic Format

Author of Article [last name first, if a name is given]. "Title of Article." Title of Encyclopedia. Editor name. Edition. Number of Volumes. Place of Publication: Publisher, date of publication.

Sample Citation

"Tuba." The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. Ed. Stanley Sadie. 6th ed. 20 vols. London: Macmillan, 1980.

Journal article -- Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. "Title of Article." [capitalize all words of the title except articles] Title of Journal. [capitalize all words of the title except articles] Volume (date of publication): page numbers.

Sample Citation

Paivio, A. "Perceptual Comparisons Through the Mind's Eye." Memory & Cognition, 3 (1975): 635-647.

Magazine article -- Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. "Title of Article." [capitalize all words of the title except articles] Title of Journal. [capitalize all words of the title except articles] date of publication: page numbers.

Sample Citation

Gardner, H. "Do Babies Sing a Universal Song?" Psychology Today Dec. 1981: 70-76.

Hanson, E. "Baby Talk" Newsweek 27 Jan. 1999: 157.

Online magazine -- Basic Format – Library Databases

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. "Title of article." [capitalize all words of the title except articles] Title of Magazine. [capitalize all words of the title except articles] date of publication. Name of the Database. Name of Database Company. Name of Library or Library System. Date accessed (day month year) <web address or search page>.

.Sample Citation

Hanson, E. "Baby Talk." Newsweek 27 Jan. 1999: 58-59. Academic Search Premier. EBSCOhost. Riverland Community College Library. 6 June 2002 <<http://search.epnet.com>>.

Paivio, A. "Perceptual Comparisons Through the Mind's Eye." Memory & Cognition, 3 (1975): 635-647. Master File Premier. EBSCOhost. Riverland Community College Library. 20 Jan. 2002 <<http://search.epnet.com>>.

Jost, Kenneth. "International Law." The CQ Researcher Online 14.44 (2004). 20 December 2004 <<http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2004121700>>. Document ID: cqresrre2004121700.

Sample citation – No author – Books or Periodicals

"Black Women Urged to Breast Feed Longer." Jet 30 July 2001: 24.

Female Subjects in Black and White. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.

Newspaper article -- Basic Format – Print & Online

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. "Title of Article." [capitalize all words of the title except articles] Title of Newspaper. [capitalize all words of the title except articles] date of publication, edition., section: page numbers. Citing online material also include the following information. Name of the Database. Name of Database Company. Name of Library or Library System. Date accessed (day month year) <web address or search page>.

Sample Citation

Lublin, J. S. "On idle: The Unemployed Shun Much Work, At Least for a While." The Wall Street Journal 5 Dec.1980: A25.

Lublin, J. S. "On idle: The Unemployed Shun Much Work, At Least for a While." The Wall Street Journal 5 Dec.1980, sec. 1: 25. Proquest Newsstand. Proquest. Riverland Community College Library. 20 Jan. 2002 <<http://proquest.umi.com/login?COPT=SU5UPTAmVkvSPTI>>.

Web page -- Basic Format

Author/Editor. (if identified) "Title of document if given." [capitalize all words of the title except articles].

Information about the Print Publication, if available. Title of Website. Date of latest update. Name of the Sponsoring Institution. [capitalize all words of the title except articles]. Date accessed (day month year) <web address>.

Sample Citation

CNN.com. 2002 Cable Network News. 22 Jan. 2002 <<http://www.cnn.com>>.

Sample Citation for Government Website

United States. Patent and Trademark Office. "Intellectual Property and the National Information Infrastructure."

By M.A. Lehman & R.H. Brown. 15 Nov. 1995. 22 Jan. 2002

<<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/doc/ipnii>>.

Electronic book -- Single author -- Basic Format*

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. Title of book. [capitalize all words of the title except articles] Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Title of Internet Site. Name of the Sponsoring Institution. [capitalize all words of the title except articles]. Date accessed <web address>.

Sample Citation

Dretske, F.I. Explaining Behavior. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1988. NetLibrary. Riverland Community College Library. 22 Jan., 2002 <http://www.netlibrary.com/ebook_info.asp?product_id=1694>.

The following page is a sample of a reference page. Note that:

- at the top of the page are the words Works Cited
- all entries are in alphabetical order
- all entries are double spaced
- note, punctuation and capitalization

Works Cited

- Abel, E., Christian, B., & Moglen, H. Female Subjects in Black and White. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.
- Berns, Walter. "Morality of Anger." Capital Punishment: A Reader. Ed. Glenn H. Stassen. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1998. 15-25.
- Bernstein, T. M. The Careful Writer: a Modern Guide to English Usage. New York: Atheneum, 1965.
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- Lublin, J. S. "On idle: The Unemployed Shun Much Work, At Least for a While." The Wall Street Journal 5 Dec. 1980, sec. 1: 25. Proquest Newsstand. Proquest. Riverland Community College Library. 20 Jan. 2002 <<http://proquest.umi.com/login?COPT=SU5UPTAmVkvSPTI>>.
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- Paivio, A. "Perceptual Comparisons Through the Mind's Eye." Memory & Cognition, 3 (1975): 635-647. Master File Premier. EBSCOhost. Riverland Community College Library. 20 Jan. 2002 <<http://search.epnet.com>>.
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- Smith, L. & Madsen, K. "Nonstop Transaction Processing". Datamation. 29, 3, (1983): 167-168.
- United States. Patent and Trademark Office. "Intellectual Property and the National Information Infrastructure." By M.A. Lehman & R.H. Brown. 15 Nov. 1995. 22 Jan. 2002 <<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/doc/ipnii/>>.

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