

Citing Your Sources -- MLA Citation Style -- 7th ed.

To avoid plagiarism, students using direct quotations, 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*, 7th ed. can be found in the library. All library databases and our online catalog have citation generators for articles and other types of resources. Please be sure to check the citation for correctness.

Parenthetical Notes

In the 2009, *MLA Handbook of Writers for Research Paper*, 7th edition it states, "References in the text must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited. The information in your parenthetical references in the text must match the corresponding information in the entries in your list of works cited." (214-15). For the parenthetical citation it is usually enough to list the author's last name and the page from which the quotation or idea was taken.

If you are using someone else's idea and it is not a direct quotation 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 quotation it should be written using the following format. Remember to use the quotation marks.

Two examples of how you could cite the same quotation 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 quotation 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 a direct quotation 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 using a webpage or other electronic documents without pagination, it is recommended to incorporate the information into the text of the work. MLA suggests an identifier that would lead the reader to the correct entry on the works cited page.

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 or indent the first line unless the quotation is more than a paragraph. 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 call 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 italicizing and using quotation marks.

Italicize the names of:

<i>Books</i>	<i>Movies</i>	<i>Journal or Magazine Title</i>	<i>Anthology of Essays</i>
<i>Recording</i>	<i>Play Collections</i>	<i>Short Story Anthologies</i>	

Use double quotation marks around:

"Articles"	"Short stories"	"Poems"
"Song titles"		

Capitalization on Works Cited Page

In the 2009, *MLA Handbook of Writers for Research Paper*, 7th edition it states "Capitalize the first letter of the first word of a title and all other words except articles [**a, an, the**], coordinating conjunctions [**and, but, or, nor**], prepositions [words that show relationships between a noun or pronoun in the title and the preposition's object, such as **on, off, in, under, by, between, for**, etc.], and the word **to** in an infinitive [a verbal form such as **to be, to go, to dance, to read**, etc.]." See the citations in this document for samples of correct capitalization.

Works Cited Examples

MLA uses similar citations for print and electronic publications. The major difference between the two is the medium of the publication. The following are examples of both print and electronic source – note the designation at the end of the citation. URLs are included if required by your instructor.

Book with single author -- Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. *Title of Book*. [italicize] Place of Publication: Publisher,

date of publication. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Web*

Source[italicize]. Medium. Date of access. <URL if required>.

Sample Citations

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

Print.

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

Netlibrary. Web. 23 Sept. 2009. <URL if required>.

Book with two 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*. [italicize] Place of Publication: Publisher, date of publication. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Web Source* – [italicize]. Medium. Date of access. <URL if required>.

Sample Citations

Horgan, Terrence, John Tienson, and Susan Hanson. *Connectionism and the Philosophy of Psychology*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996. Print.

Horgan, Terrence, John Tienson, and Susan Hanson. *Connectionism and the Philosophy of Psychology*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996. *Google Books*. Web. 23 Sept. 2009. <URL if required>.

Book with more than three authors – Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial., et al. *Title of Book*. [italicize] Place of Publication: Publisher, date of publication. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Web Source*[italicize]. Medium. Date of access. <URL if required>.

Sample Citations

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

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

Project Gutenberg. Web. 23 Sept. 2009. <URL if required>.

Works in an anthology – Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial "Title of Work." Translator name. *Title of the Anthology*. Editor name. Place of Publication: Publisher, date of publication. Page number. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Web Source*[italicize]. Medium. Date of access. <URL if required>.

Sample Citations

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

Berns, Walter. "Morality of Anger." *Capital Punishment: A Reader*. Ed. Glenn H. Stassen. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1998. 15-25. *Netlibrary*. Web. 23 Sept. 2009. <URL if required>.

Encyclopedia article – Basic Format

Author of Article [last name first, if a name is given]. "Title of Article." *Title of Encyclopedia*. [italicize] Edition.

Date of publication. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Web*

Source. [italicize] Medium. Date of access. <URL if required>.

Sample Citations

"Tuba." *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. 6th ed. 1980. Print.

"Language, philosophy of." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2009. Web. 23 Sept. 2009. <URL if required>.

Journal article -- Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. "Title of article." *Title of Journal*. [italicize] volume. issue.

(date): page numbers. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Name of the Database* [italicize]. Web. Date accessed (day month year). <URL if required>.

Sample Citations

Paivio, Alan. "Perceptual Comparisons through the Mind's Eye." *Memory & Cognition* 3.3(1975): 635-647. Print.

Paivio, Alan. "Perceptual Comparisons through the Mind's Eye." *Memory & Cognition* 3.3(1975): 635-647. . *Ebsco Academic Search Premier*. Web. 23 Sept. 2009. <URL if required>.

Magazine article -- Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine* [italicize] (date of publication): page numbers. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Name of the Database* [italicize]. Web. Date accessed (day month year). <URL if required>.

Sample Citations

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

Dodd, Melina. "Have Pet, Will Pay." *Woman's Day* 06 Oct. 2009: 156-160. *Ebsco Master File Premier*. Web. 23 Sep. 2009

Driscoll, Carlos A. "Gregarious Cats." *Scientific American* Oct. 2009: 12-12. *Ebsco Master File Premier*. Web. 23 Sep. 2009.

Newspaper article -- Basic Format

Author's Last Name, Author's First and Middle Initial. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* [italicize] date of publication, edition., section: page numbers. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Name of the Database* [italicize]. Web. Date accessed (day month year). <URL if required>.

Sample Citations

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

"Health Agency Should be Open with Flu Data." *Wyoming Tribune - Eagle* 11 Sep. 2009, ProQuest. Web. 29 Sep. 2009. <URL if required>.

Sample citation – No author – Books or Periodicals

"Black Women Urged to Breast Feed Longer." *Jet*. 30 July 2001: 24. *Ebsco Master File Premier*. Web. 27 August 2009. <URL if required>.

Female Subjects in Black and White. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997. *Netlibrary*. Web. 27 August 2009. <URL if required>.

Web page -- Basic Format

Author/Editor. (if identified) "Title of document if given." [capitalize all words of the title except articles]. *Title of Website*. [italicize] Version or edition. Name of the Sponsoring Institution, (if not available use *N.p.*). Date of publication (if not available use n.d.) Medium. Date accessed (day month year). <URL if required>.

Sample Citation for News Source

"Out of a Job and Finding Work for Others." *CNN.com*. Cable News Network, 27 Aug. 2009. Web. 27 Aug. 2009. <URL if required>.

Sample Citation for Government Website

United States. Patent and Trademark Office. "Intellectual Property and the National Information Infrastructure." By Bruce A. Lehman and Ronald A. Brown, chairs. United States Patent Office, Sept. 1995. Web. 29 Sept. 2009. <URL if required>.

Sample Citation for Online Magazine

Walt, Vivienne. "Would Sanctions on Gas Imports Really Hurt Iran?" *Time.com*. Time, 29 Sept. 2009. Web. 29 Sept. 2009. < URL if required >.

Sample Citation for Podcast

Miller, Kerri. "Can Newspapers Make Money Online?" *Midmorning*. Minnesota Public Radio, 29 Sept. 2009. MP3 file.< URL if required >.

Sample of YouTube Video

"Slingshot Fun." You Tube. YouTube, 14 March 2007. Web. 07 Dec. 2010.

DVD/Video -- Basic Format

Title. [italicize]. Director, performer(s). Distributor, date. Medium.

Sample Citation for Video/DVD

The Murder of Emmett Till. Stanley Nelson, Marcia A. Smith, Andre Braugher, and Tom Phillips. PBS Home Video, 2004. DVD.

Radio/Television Programs & Interviews -- Basic Format

"Title." [in quotations]. *Segment Title*. [italicize] Program Name. Program information if available. [Narr., Dir., Perf.] Date aired. Medium. **Citing online material also include the following information:** *Web Source*[italicize]. Medium. Date of access. <URL if required >.

Sample Citation for Radio & Television Programs

"Machines of the Gods." *Ancient Discoveries*. History Channel. 14 Oct. 2008 Television.

"Elif Shafak: Writing under a Watchful Eye." *Fresh Air*. Narr. Terry Gross. Natl. Public Radio, 6 Feb. 2007. *NPR.org*. Web 07 Dec. 2010.

Personal Interview -- Basic Format

Name of person interviewed. Type of interview. Date.

Sample Citation for Interview

Jones, Elizabeth. Telephone interview. 29 Sept. 2009.

Jones, Elizabeth. Personal interview. 29 Sept. 2009.

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
- the second line and on are indented with the first line being the longest

Works Cited

- Berns, Walter. "Morality of Anger." *Capital Punishment: A Reader*. Ed. Glenn H. Stassen. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1998. 15-25. *Netlibrary*. Web. 23 Sept. 2009.
- Bernstein, T. M. *The Careful Writer: a Modern Guide to English Usage*. New York: Atheneum, 1965. Print.
- Crosby, Olivia. "Resumes, Applications and Cover Letters." *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*, 53.2 (2009): 18-29. *Ebsco Master File*. Web. 27 August 2009.
- Driscoll, Carlos A. "Gregarious Cats." *Scientific American* (Oct. 2009): 12-12. *Ebsco Master File Premier*. Web. 23 Sep. 2009.
- Dretske, F.I. "Explaining Behavior." Cambridge: MIT Press, 1988. *NetLibrary*. Web. 22 Jan. 2002
- "Elif Shafak: Writing under a Watchful Eye." *Fresh Air*. Narr. Terry Gross. Natl. Public Radio, 6 Feb. 2007. *NPR.org*. Web 07 Dec. 2010.
- Female Subjects in Black and White*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997. *Netlibrary*. Web. 27 August 2009.
- Horgan, Terrence, John Tienson and Susan Hanson. *Connectionism and the Philosophy of Psychology*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996. *Google Books*. Web. 23 Sept. 2009.
- Jones, Elizabeth. Telephone interview. 29 Sept. 2009.
- Miller, Kerri. "Can Newspapers Make Money Online?" *Midmorning*. Minnesota Public Radio, 29 Sept. 2009. MP3 file.
- "Out of a Job and Finding Work for Others." *CNN.com*. Cable News Network, 27 Aug. 2009. Web. 27 Aug. 2009.
- Paivio, A. "Perceptual Comparisons Through the Mind's Eye." *Memory & Cognition* 3 (1975): 635-647. Print.
- "Tuba." *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. 6th ed. 1980. Print.
- United States. Patent and Trademark Office. "Intellectual Property and the National Information Infrastructure." By Bruce A. Lehman and Ronald A. Brown, chairs. United States Patent Office, Sept. 1995. Web. 29 Sept. 2009.
- Walt, Vivienne. "Would Sanctions on Gas Imports Really Hurt Iran?" *Time.com*. Time, 29 Sept. 2009. Web. 29 Sept. 2009.