

MLA Style Guide

Used for: Art, Humanities, Languages, Linguistics, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Religion and Theatre

General Guidelines to MLA Citations

In-text Citations

The purpose of the in-text citation is to make it easy for a reader to find the original source in your Works Cited list. At the same time, you do not want to include so much information in the in-text citation that it makes the formatting awkward.

- In most cases, the in-text citation will indicate the author.
- If you are referring to something on a specific page or pages, include those numbers.
- For works without authors, use the title; if the title is long, use a shortened version of it.
- If you mention the author in the lead-up to your quote, do not include it in the parenthetical citation; only include the page numbers (if applicable).

Works Cited

The style of the entries in your Works Cited list varies depending on the type of material it is.

- The new guidelines, released in 2016, recommend including the URL of an electronic source. URLs do not need to include `http://` or `https://`; they also do not need to be hyperlinked to the source.
- It's not necessary to include the publication city.

Common Abbreviations

- Abbreviate longer month names with their 3-letter abbreviations.
- Put dates in the format of "day month year," such as "11 Nov. 2009."
- If an article occurs on consecutive pages, indicate the page range. If an article does not occur on consecutive pages, indicate the number of the first page followed by a plus sign. For example, if an article begins on page 1 and is continued on page 13, include "1+" as page information.

Type of Source	In-text Citation	Works Cited List
Books, Print		
Book, One Author	(Abbott 135)	Abbott, Carl. <i>How Cities Won the West</i> . U of New Mexico P, 2008.
Notes: For publisher information, use an abbreviated or shortened version; do not include Press, Books, Co., Inc., etc. For example, University of New Mexico Press should be U of New Mexico P.		
Book, Two Authors	(Graff and Birkenstein 25)	Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. <i>They Say I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing</i> . Norton, 2010.
Book, Three or More Authors	(Anderson et al. 31)	Anderson, Doug, et al. <i>Orange City</i> . Arcadia, 2014.
Notes: For a work with three or more authors, list the first author followed by “et al.”		
Book, Corporate Author	(National Association for Sport and Physical Education 7)	National Association for Sport and Physical Education. <i>Physical Education for Lifelong Fitness: The Physical Best Teacher's Guide</i> . 2nd ed., Human Kinetics, 2005.
Notes: Because the corporate author is lengthy, it can be awkward in a parenthetical notation. You can instead introduce the author in the body of the paper; for example, “The National Association for Sport and Physical Education documents the importance of regular cardiovascular activity. (15)”		
Book, No Author	(<i>Planet Earth</i> 18)	<i>Planet Earth: Macmillan World Atlas</i> . Macmillan, 1997.
Book, Editor	(Hoxie 9)	Hoxie, Frederick E., editor. <i>Talking Back to Civilization: Indian Voices from the Progressive Era</i> . Bedford/St. Martin's, 2001.
Work in an Anthology	(Moore 246)	Moore, Charles Michael. “Love's Light in Flight.” 1984. <i>The National Black Drama Anthology: Eleven Plays from America's Leading African-American Theatres</i> , edited by Woodie King, Jr., Applause, 1995, pp. 239-93.

Bible	(Zondervan NIV Study Bible, Psalm 145:4)	Zondervan NIV Study Bible. Edited by Kenneth L. Barker, New International Version, Zondervan, 2002.
Bible Commentary, Book	(Butler 167-8)	Butler, Trent C. <i>Joshua</i> . Vol. 7, Word, 1983.
Bible Commentary, Book Section	(Perkins 452-6)	Perkins, PHEME. "The Letter to the Ephesians." <i>The New Interpreter's Bible</i> , vol. 11, Abingdon, 2000, pp. 349-466.
Bible Dictionary	(Muddiman)	Muddiman, John. "Fast, Fasting." <i>The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary</i> , edited by David Noel Freedman, Yale UP, 2008, pp. 773-76.
Dictionary or Encyclopedia, Editor, Signed Entries	(Green)	Green, Christopher. "Cubism." <i>The Dictionary of Art</i> , edited by Jane Turner, vol. 8, Grove, 1996, pp. 239-46.
Dictionary or Encyclopedia, Author	(Melton et al. 339)	Melton, J. Gordon, et al. "Billy Sunday." <i>Prime-time Religion: An Encyclopedia of Religious Broadcasting</i> , Oryx, 1997, pp. 338-40.
Books, Electronic		
Book, Electronic	(Limbert 63)	Limbert, Mandana E. <i>In the Time of Oil: Piety, Memory, and Social Life in an Omani Town</i> . Stanford UP, 2010. <i>ebrary</i> , site.ebrary.com/lib/northwesterniowa/detail.action?docID=10394879 .

Dictionary or Encyclopedia, Electronic	(Tejada-Flores)	Tejada-Flores, Rick. "Chávez, César." <i>The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States</i> , edited by Suzanne Oboloer and Deena J. Gonzalez, Oxford UP, 2005. <i>Oxford Reference Online</i> , www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780195156003.001.0001/acref-9780195156003-e-139 .
Journal Articles, Print		
Journal Article, One Author	(Derifeld 40)	Derifield, Coreen. "'I Thought of the Money that We Could Use': Iowa Women and Industrial Wage Work, 1950-1970." <i>The Annals of Iowa</i> , vol. 73, no. 1, 2014, pp. 28-59.
Journal Article, Two Authors	(Goldschmidt and Seacord 412)	Goldschmidt, Tyron, and Beth Seacord. "Judaism, Reincarnation, and Theodicy." <i>Faith and Philosophy</i> , vol. 30, no. 4, 2013, pp. 393-417.
Journal Article, Three or More Authors	(Mraz et al. 165)	Mraz, Maryann, et al. "Improving Oral Reading Fluency through Readers Theatre." <i>Reading Horizons</i> , vol. 52, no. 2, 2013, pp. 163-80.
Journal Articles, Electronic		
Journal Article, Electronic, from a Web Site	(Feuer)	Feuer, Anna. "Fair Foul and Right Wrong: The Language of Alchemy in <i>Timon of Athens</i> ." <i>Early Modern Literary Studies</i> , vol. 16, no. 1, 2012, extra.shu.ac.uk/emls/16-1/feuetimo.htm .

Journal Article, Electronic, from a Database	(Basom 416)	Basom, Ben. "Frontier History and Domestic Fiction: <i>Angle of Repose</i> and 1970s Marriage Politics." <i>Papers on Language & Literature</i> , vol. 46, no. 4, Fall 2010, pp. 414-40. <i>Academic Search Premier</i> , ezproxy.nwciowa.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=afh&AN=55576756&site=ehost-live&scope=site.
Magazine & Newspaper Articles, Print		
Magazine Article	(McKnight 52)	McKnight, Scot. "Does Prayer Work?" <i>Relevant</i> , July-Aug. 2013, pp. 52-54.
Notes: If the article occurs on consecutive pages, indicate the page range. If the article does not occur on consecutive pages, indicate the number of the first page followed by a plus sign.		
Newspaper Article, Author	(Eller 1)	Eller, Donnelle. "A Green Thumbs-Up." <i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 5 Apr. 2014, pp. 1A+.
Notes: If the article occurs on consecutive pages, indicate the page range. If the article does not occur on consecutive pages, indicate the number of the first page followed by a plus sign.		
Newspaper Article, No Author	("Election Turnout")	"Election Turnout at Record Low." <i>Chicago Tribune</i> , 23 Mar. 2014, p. 9A.
Notes: Use a shortened version of the article title in the in-text citation.		

Magazine & Newspaper Articles, Electronic**Magazine Article, Electronic, from a Database**

(O'Rourke 35)

O'Rourke, Meghan. "What's Wrong with Me?" *New Yorker*, 26 Aug. 2013, pp. 32-37. *Academic Search Premier*, ezproxy.nwciowa.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=afh&AN=90535909&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Notes: If an online article is not paginated, you do not need to include page numbers in the in-text citation. Articles in PDF format often include page numbers; in that case, include the page numbers.

Newspaper Article, Electronic, from a Database

(Keyes B01)

Keyes, Scott. "Conservatives Want Very Conscious Uncoupling." *Washington Post*, 13 Apr. 2014, p. B01. *LexisNexis Academic*, www.lexisnexis.com/Inacui2api/api/version1/getDocCui?Ini=5BYT-Y8K1-JBFW-C1D7&csi=8075&hl=t&hv=t&hnsd=f&hns=t&hgn=t&oc=00240&perma=true.

Notes: If an online article is not paginated, you do not need to include page numbers in the in-text citation. Articles in PDF format often include page numbers; in that case, include the page numbers.

Other Sources**Advertisement**

(Polo Ralph Lauren)

Polo Ralph Lauren. *Fast Company*, Apr. 2014, pp. Inside Cover-1. Advertisement.

Art, Electronic, from a Database

(Wood)

Wood, Grant. *American Gothic*. 1930. *ARTstor*. library.artstor.org/library/secure/ViewImages?id=8jNTaD4kJDgpRio%2Ffz16Qg%3D%3D&userId=gDBAdzMn&zoomparams=.

Film /Videorecording*(American Teacher)*

American Teacher. Directed by Vanessa Roth, First Run Features, 2011.

Film /Videorecording, Electronic, from a Database	(<i>Paperback Writer</i>)	<i>Paperback Writer: The Beauty of Books</i> . Produced by British Broadcasting Corporation, 2011. <i>Films on Demand</i> , ezproxy.nwciowa.edu/login?url=http://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=106011&xtid=55771.
Musical Score	(Bach)	Bach, Johann Sebastian. <i>Sheep May Safely Graze</i> . Boosey & Hawkes, 1944.
Personal Interview	(Norris)	Norris, Kathleen. Interview. 12 Feb. 2006.
Sound Recording	("I Wished on the Moon")	"I Wished on the Moon." Performance by Billie Holiday. <i>The Quintessential Billie Holiday</i> , Columbia, 1987.
Web Page	("Martin Luther")	"Martin Luther." <i>Biography.com</i> , A&E Television Networks, 2014, www.biography.com/people/martin-luther-9389283. Accessed 12 Aug. 2016.