How to Cite References
Using MLA Style

This guide provides examples of the Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style. MLA is used primarily in the humanities and occasionally in the social sciences. For additional examples, consult the most recent MLA Handbook, located at the Reference Desk (REF DESK LB 2369 G53).

WORKS CITED LISTING
MLA style requires that an alphabetical listing of the sources used, called Works Cited, be placed at the end of term papers and reports. Do not indent the first line of each citation, but do indent all subsequent lines five spaces. Include the medium of the publication consulted followed by a period.

BOOKS
One Author

Two or Three Authors
Shain, Yossi, and Juan J. Linz. Between States: Interim Governments and Democratic


More Than Three Authors

No Author Given/ Anonymous

Editor or Compiler

Society, Association, or Institution As Corporate Author

Both Author & Editor, Translator or Illustrator Given

Print.
Component Parts of Books


One Work in an Anthology/Title Within a Title

ARTICLES
Scholarly Journals with Continuous Pagination

Monthly Magazine

Weekly Magazine

Weekly Magazine, No Author Given

Newspaper

Newspaper edition/named section

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES
Author Given

No Author Given
ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

E-Book


Newspaper (Article in a newspaper or on a newswire)

Online Databases (Library Subscription Service)

Nonperiodical Publication

Web. 21 July 2009.

Periodical Publication (Scholarly Journal)

SOUND, FILM, OR VIDEO


LEGAL CITATIONS
PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

The MLA style requires that parenthetical citations be used in the text of the document, rather than footnotes or endnotes. These references to page numbers within a work correspond to the Works Cited at the end of the document. Within sentences, parenthetical references appear at the end of all punctuation except the last punctuation mark.

Below are additional examples of parenthetical citations.

Author’s Name in Text
Machiavelli believed that “the ends justify the means” (1240).

Author’s Name in a Reference
There are many ways to argue this point (Walker 175).

Authors’ Names in Text
Many, like Lindsay and Crouse (90-100), disagree with him.

Authors’ Names in Reference
Many disagree with him (e.g., Lindsay and Crouse 90-100).

Citing Volume & Page Numbers of a Multi-Volume Work
Jones does not see this connection (2:10).

Citing Part of an Article or Book
Morrison’s theory of the effect of prayer in school brings up a lot of questions (10, 17-23).

Citing a Work Listed by Title
The article expressed how far reaching the Internet is in one’s life (“Political Campaigns” 98).

Citing a Work by a Corporate Author
The American Library Association has always fought for an individual’s right to access information (16).

For additional examples of parenthetical references, see the MLA Handbook (REF DESK LB2369 .G53).

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