



MLA Basic Style Guide

Citation Resource Guide for APA, MLA, and Chicago owl.english.purdue.edu

Overview

Modern Language Association style is commonly referred to as MLA. When making references to sources, titles are included. Individual works such as books, films, paintings, and records are italicized, while articles, chapters and episodes are indicated with quotation marks ". With MLA, citations are only direct references to the texts you have read, and these appear on a Works Cited page. Citations are written in-text (written in the body of the work) or parenthetical citations (written in brackets after statement). Since the citation is considered part of your sentence, the period comes after the parentheses. Unlike in other styles, a page number(s) must be given when paraphrasing in MLA.

MLA is commonly used in programs such as English Literature, Comparative Literature, Philosophy, Linguistics, Modern Languages, and Education.

MLA General Formatting

- Standard letter paper size 8.5" x 11"
- Typed at 12 pt. Time or Arial font and all text is double-spaced
- 1" margins on all sides
- A header with your last name and page number should appear in the top right hand corner of each page of your written work
- MLA does not require a title page. Instead, key information is listed on the left corner of the first page: your name; professor name; course name and number; date
- The title, "Works Cited," should be centered and placed one inch down from the top of the page
- Entries are placed in alphabetical order using the author's last name
- When citing two or more works by the same author, write the author's name in the first entry only. Three hyphens --- will be used in place of the author's name in subsequent entries, which are arranged alphabetically
- If the author's name is unknown use the title of the work in its place

- The second line of an entry is indented one half of an inch or one tab. The entries are double spaced within and between each other

In-Text Parenthetical Citations

There are three ways to cite a source: quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing. The author's last name must be given in all three cases.

Quotes

Use the source's text word for word and place it in quotation marks. The author's last name and the page number must be given:

As Singh elucidates the men who were surveyed "tended to prefer apples" (66).

Paraphrase

A part of the author's idea is put into your own words. The author's last name and page number must be given:

Singh noted that unlike women, men enjoyed apples (66)

Summarize

The author's general argument or idea is put into your own words. Only the author's name must be given:

The survey revealed that men enjoyed apples over pears (Singh).

Additional Citation Information

When citing a work by two or more authors within a parenthesis "and" is used. For example: (Grant, Fern, and Miller).

All of the citation information must appear only once per sentence; there is no need to mention the author's name in the sentence, and then again in parentheses. Notice that the researched information is not simply dropped into the page. Instead, leading into the information creates flow.

- Emphasize the author by placing their name first:
Avolio and Van Gest argue for a distinction between snow and slush since "they affect traffic and pedestrians differently" (34).
- For emphasis, place the citation information at the end of the sentence:
There is a distinction between snow and slush since "they affect traffic and pedestrians differently" (Avolio and Van Gest 34).

- Emphasize the citation by placing it first:

Since "they effect traffic and pedestrians differently," Avolio and Van Gest argue for a distinction between snow and slush (34).

If an author's name is not indicated, then the title is used:

Horrible effects result from the emission of gasoline ("Environmental Impacts" 43).

When citing a citation appearing in another work, indicate the name of both authors:

Jenkins argues for a clear display of ideas (quoted in Hannah 78).

Block Quotation

Longer quotations of text or poetry are set off from the main body. The quotation is indented and double-spaced. The page number is given after the period. There are no quotation marks.

Youssef Kozinski highlights the effects of gentrification in the area:

North from King St. there was a transition in the use of the space. Soon small grocery stores, cafes, and restaurants began to open. The new retail spaces provided venues for the members of the community to gather and meet. Buildings began to be renewed, and plans were made to improve the quantity of buses. (45)

Works Cited

Books

Last Name, First Name. *Title*. Publisher, Publication Date.

Ford, Diane Brooke. *The Summer Idyll*. Neon Press, 2011.

Gilbert, Sandra M., and Susan Gubar, editors. *The Female Imagination and the Modernist Aesthetic*. Gordon, 1986.

Article in a Scholarly Journal

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year,

Page Range.

Del Fuego, Aurelia. "B.P. Nichol, The Sacred and the Feminine." *New Horizons*, vol. 12, no. 7, 2010, pp. 14-22.

Article in a Newspaper

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper*, Date, Page.

Jarman, Mick. "When in Rome." *Travelling Diaries*, 12 January 2014, L30.

Article in an Online Journal

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Journal Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, Stable URL (or DOI). Date Accessed.

Zantides, Evripides. "Looking inwards, designing outwards: national identity and print advertisements of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation." *Visual Studies*, vol. 31, issue 3, 2016, DOI 10.1080/1472586X.2016.1209987, pp. 248-259.

Website

Author/Publisher. *Title of Website/Project*, Publisher, Day Month Year (of publishing). Web address. Day Month Year (of access).

United Arab Emirates Public Health Agency. *Updated Water Standards*, 14 December 2008. Web. 3 May 2014.

Film

Title of Film. Dir. Name. Distributor, Year.

Love and Death. Dir. Woody Allen. United Artists, 1978.

Lecture

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Lecture." *Title of Meeting/Conference/Course*.

Location City, Province/State. Month Year. Presentation.

Heally, Twyla, and Rowan Twerp. "Twitter or Fritter?" *The Annual Meeting of English Teachers Association*. Toronto, Ontario. July, 2010. Presentation.