MLA

What is MLA Style?

In English and other humanities classes, you may be asked to use the MLA (Modern Language Association) system for documenting sources, which is set forth in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (New York: MLA, 2009). MLA style provides writers with a system for referencing their sources through parenthetical documentation and on a Works Cited page.

The purpose of this handout is to provide a brief guide to citing the most common types of sources.

Formatting Your Paper

- Before you begin, be sure to check with your instructor for specific formatting preferences.
- Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides.
- MLA does not require a separate title page.
- Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.). (Note: Your instructor or other readers may ask that you omit last name/page number header on your first page).
- Double-space every line of text in your paper, and use a legible font like Times New Roman or Ariel.
- In the upper left-hand corner of the first page of your document, place your name, your instructor's name, the course title, and the date on separate lines against the left margin.
- Double space and center the title. Do not underline the title or put it in quotation marks.
- Double space between the title and the first line of the text.
- Indent the first line of every paragraph one half-inch from the left margin (press tab once).
- Use *italics* throughout your essay for titles of longer works.

Formatting Your Works Cited Page

- Begin your Works Cited list on a separate page from the last page of text of the essay.
- Like your essay, the Works Cited page(s) should be paginated. For example, if your essay ends on page 8, the Works Cited list will begin on page 9.
- Center the words 'Works Cited' at the top of the page. Do not underline, italicize, bold, or enclose in quotation marks.
- Double space all entries and do not skip spaces between entries.
- Use a hanging indent for all entries:

> Frauenheim, Ed. "Stop Reading This Headline and Get Back to Work." CNET News.com. CNET Networks, 11 July 2005. Web. 17 Feb. 2006.

- Your list should be alphabetized by the author's last name. If the author's name is unknown, alphabetize by title.
- If you cite multiple works by the same author, cite the name once and begin following citations with three hyphens and period (- - - .), and alphabetize by title.

Citing Book Sources

Note: As of 2009, MLA format now requires that writers distinguish the source's media type (print, web, DVD, etc.) in all citations.

Book with One Author

Author's last name, first name. Book Title. City: Publisher, publication year. Media type.

> Sanders, Scott Russell. The Paradise of Bombs. Boston: Beacon Press, 1987. Print.

Book by a Corporate Author

A corporate author may be a commission, a committee, or any group whose individual members are not identified on the title page.

> Centers for Disease Control. Avian Flu Epidemic. New York: Bedford, 2005. Print.

Book with More than One Author

The first author's name is written last name first; subsequent author names are written first name, last name.

> Goode, Paula, and Stephanie Lamothe. A Practical Guide to Modern Housewifery. Boston: Allyn, 2000. Print.

Book with No Author

List and alphabetize by the title of the book.

> Encyclopedia of Indiana. New York: Somerset, 1993. Print.

A Translated Book

Cite as you would any other book, and add "Trans." followed by the translator's/translators' name(s):

> Foucault, Michel. Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason. Trans. Richard Howard. New York: Vintage-Random House, 1988. Print.

Anthology or Edited Collection

List by editor or editors, followed by a comma and "ed." or, for multiple editors, "eds."

> Hill, Charles A. and Marguerite Helmers, eds. Defining Visual Rhetorics. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004. Print.

> Peterson, Nancy J., ed. Toni Morrison: Critical and Theoretical Approaches. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. Print.

"MLA Guidelines" - Developed using the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.

FranklinPierce
UNIVERSITY
An **education** that **matters.**

40 University Drive, Rindge, NH 03461 . Edgewood Hall . 603.899.4172 . writingcenter@franklinpierce.edu

Books (continued)

An Essay or Chapter in a Book

Last name, first name. "Title of Essay." Title of collection. Ed. Editor's Name(s). Place of
    publication: Publisher, Year. Pages. Media type.

Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One.
    Ed. Ben Rafoth. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2000. 24-34. Print.

A Multivolume Work

When citing only one volume of a multivolume work, include the volume number after the work's title, or
after the work's editor or translator.

Quintillian. Institutio Oratoria. Trans. H.E. Butler. Vol. 2. Cambridge: Loeb-Harvard UP, 1980. Print.

When citing more than one volume of a multivolume work, cite the total number of volumes in the work.

Quintillian. Institutio Oratoria. Trans. H.E. Butler. 4 vols. Cambridge: Loeb-Harvard UP, 1980. Print.

When citing multivolume works in your text, always include the volume number followed by a colon, then
the page number(s):

...as Quintillian wrote in Institutio Oratoria (1:14-17). Print.

An Introduction, a Preface, a Forward, or an Afterword

When citing an introduction, a preface, a forward or an afterword, write the name of the author and then
give the name of the part being cited, which should not be italicized, underlined, or enclosed in quotation
marks.

Farrell, Thomas B. Introduction. Norms of Rhetorical Culture. New Haven: UP, 1993. 1-13. Print.

If the writer of the piece is different from the author of the complete work, then write the full name or after
the word "By." For example:

Duncan, Hugh Dalziel. Introduction. Permanence and Change: An Anatomy of Purpose. By Kenneth Burke.
    1935. 3rd ed. 5-9. Berkeley: U of California P, 1984. xiii-xliv. Print.

"MLA Guidelines" - Developed using the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.

FranklinPierce
UNIVERSITY
An **education** that **matters.**

40 University Drive, Rindge, NH 03461 . Edgewood Hall . 603.899.4172 . writingcenter@franklinpierce.edu

Citing Periodicals

MLA style is slightly different for popular periodicals such as newspapers and scholarly journals, as you'll learn below. Make sure to italicize newspaper, journal and magazine titles and to use quotation marks for article titles.

An Article in a Newspaper or Magazine

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical Day Month Year: pages. Media type.

If there is more than one edition available for that date (as in an early and late edition of a newspaper), identify the edition following the date (e.g. 17 May 1987, late ed.).

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." Time 20 Nov. 2000: 70-71. Print.

An Article in a Scholarly Journal

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume.Issue (Year): pages. Media type.

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's Basahi Tudu." Tulsa Studies in Literature 15.1 (1996): 41-50. Print.

Basic Style for Citing Electronic Sources (including online databases)

Here are some common features you should try and find before citing electronic sources in MLA style. Not every Web page will provide all of the following information. However, collect as much of the following information as possible both for your citations and for your research notes.

- Author and/or editor names (if available)

- Article name in quotation marks (if applicable)

- Title of the Website, project, or book in italics. (Remember that some Print publications have Web publications with slightly different names. They may, for example, include the additional information or otherwise modified information, like domain names [e.g. .com or .net].)

- Any version numbers available, including revisions, posting dates, volumes, or issue numbers.

- Publisher information, including the publisher name and publishing date.

- Take note of any page numbers (if available).

- Medium of publication.

- Date you accessed the material.

- URL (if required, or for your own personal reference; MLA does not require a URL).

FranklinPierce
U N I V E R S I T Y
An **education** that **matters.**

Citing Electronic Sources (Cont'd)

Citing an Entire Web Site

It is necessary to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available on one date may no longer be available later. If a URL is required or you chose to include one, be sure to include the complete address for the site. (Note: The following examples do not include a URL because MLA no longer requires a URL to be included.)

Remember to use n.p. if no publisher name is available and n.d. if no publishing date is given.

> Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). Name of Site. Version number.
> Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher),
> date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

> The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U,
> 2008. Web. 23 Apr. 2008. Felluga, Dino. Guide to Literary and Critical Theory. Purdue U,
> 28 Nov. 2003. Web. 10 May 2006.

A Page on a Web Site

For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by the information covered above for entire Web sites.

> "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." eHow. Demand Media, Inc., n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2009.

A Scholarly Journal on the Web

Begin the entry by following the format of print scholarly journals. Note that some online materials do not include page numbers. In that case, add "n. pag." in place of page numbers. Then add:

1. Medium of publication consulted (Web)
2. Date of access (day, month, year)

> Landauer, Michelle. "Images of Virtue: Reading, Reformation and the Visualization of Culture in
> Rousseau's La Nouvelle Heloise." Romanticism on the Net 46 (2007): n. pag. Web. 8 Nov. 2007.

A Periodical Publication in an Online Database

Oftentimes periodicals are accessible to researchers via online databases. Begin the entry by citing as you would a print periodical, but change the medium from Print to Web. Conclude the entry with the following items:

1. Title of database.
2. Medium of publication consulted
3. Date of access.

> Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." Postmodern Culture 10.3 (2000): n. pag. Project
> Muse. Web. 5 June 2008.

FranklinPierce
UNIVERSITY
An **education** that **matters.**

Additional Sources

An Interview

Begin with the name of the person interviewed. If the interview was part of a publication, recording, or program, enclose the title, if any, in quotation marks; if the interview was published independently, italicize the title. If the interview if untitled, use the descriptive label "Interview," neither italicized or in quotation marks.

> Blanchett, Cate. "In Character with: Cate Blanchett." Notes on a Scandal. Dir. Richard Eyre. Fox Searchlite, 2006. DVD.

> Gordimer, Nadine. Interview. New York Times 10 Oct. 1991, late ed.: C25. Print.

To cite **an interview you conducted**, give the name of the person interviewed, the kind of interview (personal, telephone) and the date.

> Pei, I. M. Personal interview. 22 July 1993.

Parenthetical Citations

In MLA style, you are required to acknowledge your sources with brief parenthetical citations. These citations include the author's last name and the page number. No comma is necessary to separate these two elements. For example:

> Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras, who lived in the sixth century BC (Marcuse 197).

This tells us that the information came from page 197 in a work by an author named Marcuse. If a reader wanted more information about the source, a complete bibliographical entry would be found in the Works Cited.

A citation in MLA style contains only enough information to enable readers to find the source in the Works Cited list.

If the author's name is included in the text, only the page number appears in the citation: (197).

If more than one work by the author is in the list of Works Cited, give a shortened version of the title: (Marcuse, Survey 197).

If no page numbers are given (as in some electronic sources, number by paragraph: (Marcuse par. 2).

Citations should appear at the end of a sentence and at the end of a quote, if used. The final quotation mark and first parentheses should have one space between them. Finally, the sentence period should appear after the citation:

> According to Marcuse, "Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras" (197).