

## MLA DOCUMENTATION

Credible, responsible writers use documentation in their writing. Accurate acknowledgement of their sources demonstrates writers' professionalism, allows them to use experts to support their research, and ensures they avoid plagiarism.

This guide includes examples of MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation formats for print and electronic sources including books, periodicals, databases and websites. Additional information and examples are available in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (6<sup>th</sup> edition) and on the MLA website at <http://www.mla.org> under MLA Style. The current English 101 handbook, The New Century Handbook will also be helpful.

### PRINT SOURCES

#### BOOKS

##### **1 author**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of author. Title:Subtitle. City of publication:  
Publisher, publication date.

Fukuyama, Francis. Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution. New York: Farrar, 2002.

##### **2-3 authors**

Last name of author listed first on title page, First Name Middle name or Initial, and followed by the other name [or names separated by a comma and the word and] in natural order First name Middle name or Initial Last name. Title:Subtitle. City of publication: Publisher, publication date.

Bassis, Michael S., Richard J. Gelles, and Ann Levine. Sociology: An Introduction. New York: Random House, 1984.

##### **4+ authors**

Last name of author listed first on title page, First name Middle name or Initial, et al. Title:Subtitle. City of publication: Publisher, publication date.

Dube, Anthony, et al. Structure and Meaning: An Introduction to Literature. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983.

##### **Editor or compiler as author**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial, ed. [or comp.] Title: Subtitle. City of publication: Publisher, publication date.

Brundage, W. Fitzhugh, ed. Under Sentence of Death: Lynching in the South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

#### PARTS OF BOOKS

##### **Item in an Anthology**

Last name, First name Middle name or initial of author of item. "Title of Item." Title of anthology. Ed. (or Comp. Or Trans.) First name Middle name or Initial Last Name of editor, compiler, translator of anthology. City of publication: Publisher, publication date. Range of pages.

Miller, Arthur. "Memory of Two Mondays." One Act: Eleven Short Plays of the Modern Theatre. Ed. Samuel Moon. New York: Grove Press, 1961. 251-313.

### **Introduction, Foreward, etc.**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of author of item. "Title of the item." Foreward (or Introduction, Afterword, etc.). Title of book. By First name Last name of author of book if different from author of item or By Last name if same. City of publication: Publisher, publication date. Range of pages.

Borza, Eugene N. "An Introduction to Alexander Studies." Introduction. Alexander the Great. By Ulrich Wilcken. New York: W.W.Norton & Company, 1967. ix-xxviii.

### **Article in Reference Book**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of author of article. "Title of article." Title of Reference Book. Ed. First name Middle name or Initial Last name of editor of reference book. Edition. Volume #. City of publication: Publisher, publication date. Range of pages.

Oakes, Jeannie. "Grouping Students for Instruction." Encyclopedia of Educational Research. Ed. Marvin C. Alkin. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Vol.2. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1992. 562-568.

### **Previously Published Item Reprinted in Reference Book**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of author of item. "Title of item." Title of original publication [it may be a book, periodical,etc.] volume # of periodical (publication year): Page range. Rpt. in Title of Reference Book. Ed. First name Last name of editor of reference book. Volume # of reference book. City of publication: Publisher, publication date. Range of pages.

Stewart, J.I.M. "Kipling." Eight Modern Writers (1963): 223-293. Rpt. in Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism. Ed. Sharon K. Hall. Vol.8. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1982. 197-201.

## **PERIODICALS**

### **Journal article**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of author of article. "Title of Article." Title of Journal volume number.issue number (publication year): range of pages.

Morman, David A. "New Web Tools Click with Community Colleges." Community College Journal 71.2 (2000): 34-37.

### **Magazine article**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of author of article. "Title of article." Title of Magazine date abbreviation of Month year of publication: range of pages or starting page number followed by a plus sign if pages are not consecutive.

Hyman, Mark. "For Big-League Dreamers, Big-League Camps." Business Week 26 Feb. 2001: 112-114.

**Newspaper article**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of author of article. "Title of Article." Title of Newspaper [City of publication of local papers if not included in title] date abbreviation of Month year of publication, edition: page number or starting page number followed by a plus sign if pages are not consecutive.

Schwartzman, Paul. "Unleashing a Danger or Appreciating Pets? Pr. George's May Lift Ban on Pit Bulls." Washington Post 26 Feb. 2001, home ed.: A1+.

**ELECTRONIC SOURCES****Work from a Library Subscription Service**

Last name, First name of author. "Title of work". Name of journal, magazine or newspaper with issue number and (year): page numbers. Name of the database. Name of the service. Name of the library or library system, with city and/or state abbreviation. Date of access and <URL of document>.

Youakim, Sami. "Work-Related Asthma." American Family Physician 64 (2001): 1839-52. Health Reference Center. Gale. Chesapeake College Learning Resource Center, MD. 12 Jan. 2005 <<http://www.galegroup.com/>>.

**Parenthetical Citation:**

Only one article mentioned the high cost of addressing work-related asthma (Youakim, par. 16).

**Work from a Personal Subscription Service**

"Word or similar designation." Name of online reference. Version number. Date. Name of personal subscription service. Date of access. Keyword: Name of source.

"Table Tennis." Compton's Encyclopedia Online. Vers. 2.0. 1997. America Online. 4 July 1998. Keyword: Compton's.

**Parenthetical Citation:**

One source described this sport as one that has spread to more than forty new countries over the last decade ("Table Tennis," par. 16).

**Website**

Title of website. Name of the editor of the site. Date of publication or latest update. Name of Institution or Organization associated with site. Date of access and <URL of website>.

The Complete Guide to the Alexander Technique. Rickover, Robert. 2001. Alexander Technique Nebraska, Ontario Centre for the Alexander Technique. 2 Feb. 2000 <<http://www.alexandertechnique.com>>.

**Parenthetical Citation:**

Only one source mentioned the high cost of addressing the expansion of the Alexander Technique (The Complete Guide, par. 16-24).

**Information Database**

Title of the database. Date of latest update. Name of sponsoring institution or organization, city and/or state. Date of access and <URL of document>.

Thomas: Legislative Information on the Internet. 19 June 2001. Lib. of Congress, Washington. 18 May 2002 <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.

**Personal site:**

Name of the person who created the website. The title of the site or Home page. Date of last update Date of access and <URL of document>.

Lancashire, Ian. Home page. 28 Mar. 2002 15 May 2002 <[http:// www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~ian/](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~ian/)>.

**Book**

Author's name. Title of the work. Publication information for the original print version if given - City of publication, publication date. Title of the Internet site. Editor of site. Date of electronic publication or update. Name of sponsoring institution or organization. Date of access and <URL of document>.

Nesbit, Edith. Ballads and Lyrics of Socialism. London, 1908. Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. May 2000. Indiana U. 26 June 2002 <<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/nesbit/ballsoc.html#p9>>.

**Article in a Journal**

Author's name. Title of article. Title of journal with volume and issue with date: number of paragraphs or page numbers. Date of access and <URL of document>.

Sohmer, Steve. "12 June 1599: Opening Day at the Shakespeare Globe." Early Modern Literary Studies 3.1 (1997): 46 pars. 26 June 2002 <<http://www.shu.ac.uk/emls/03-1/sohmjuli.html>>.

**Article in a Magazine**

Author's name. Title of article. Title of magazine with date. Date of access and <URL of document>.

Levy, Steven. "Great Minds, Great Ideas." Newsweek 27 May 2002. 20 May 2002 <<http://www.msnbc.com/news/754336.asp>>.

**Article, document, etc. within a website**

Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of author of document. "Title of document." Title of website. Last name, First name Middle name or Initial of website author or editor preceded by Ed. Date of publication or latest update of website. Name of Institution or Organization associated with site. Date of access and <URL of document>.

Macy, John A. "Physical Therapy and the Alexander Technique: An Overview." The Complete Guide to the Alexander Technique. 2001. Alexander Technique Nebraska, Ontario Centre for the Alexander Technique. 2 Feb. 2001 <<http://www.alexandertechnique.com/pt/macy>>.

## **CITING SOURCES, parenthetical style**

Whenever you use direct quotations, summaries, paraphrases, statistics, tables, or diagrams, you must acknowledge the source of the borrowed information.

### **REFERENCES TO AN ARTICLE**

Only one article mentioned the high cost of training radiographers (Harper 47).

**If the author's name is given in the text, do not repeat it in the citation.**

James Harper reported that the cost of training students in health related fields is higher because of the equipment, which must be kept up to date (47).

### **DIRECT QUOTATION**

According to James Harper, "Many students in health related fields find it necessary to seek financial assistance to complete their education" (48).

### **ELECTRONIC SOURCES AND PARAGRAPH NUMBERS**

Some **electronic sources** do not have page numbers. In that case, use **paragraph numbers** and add a comma after the author's name or the title.

**For example:** "The debut of Julius Caesar," according to Sohmer, "proclaimed Shakespeare's Globe a theatre of courage and ideas, a place where an audience must observe with the inner eye, listen with the inner ear" (par. 44). **OR** "The debut of Julius Caesar proclaimed Shakespeare's Globe a theatre of courage and ideas, a place where an audience must observe with the inner eye, listen with the inner ear" (Sohmer, par. 44).

\*For further clarification on parenthetical citations for Electronic Sources, go to <http://www.mla.org> and look for [MLA Style](#) on the lower right-hand side of the page. Click on this link to go to What Is MLA Style? Then click on "[frequently asked questions.](#)" Finally click on "[I am using a source on the Web that has no page numbers. How do I cite it?](#)" to read the answer.

**Sample First Page of a Research Paper\*:**

Smith 1

John Smith

Professor Hamilton

ENG 101-04

27 July 2005

## Diet Sodas: Not for Weight Loss

Even since artificially sweetened sodas were developed, dieters have been consuming them happily, thinking they were doing something great to lose weight. They could enjoy a sweet, fizzy drink without guilt. While regular soda consumption has decreased, diet soda consumption is on the rise, according to a Center for Science in the Public Interest article (Jacobson 1). Now dieters are alarmed to learn that consuming diet soda may actually cause them to become obese. Until further research supports a connection between consumption of artificially sweetened sodas and obesity, dieters should continue to enjoy the drinks in moderation.

**Entry for Center for Science in the Public Interest article on Works Cited page:**

Jacobson, Michael. "Liquid Candy: How Soft Drinks are Harming America's Health."

Washington, DC: Center for Science in the Public Interest, 2005. 27 July 2005

<http://www.cspinet.org/liquidcandy/index.html>.

\*The sixth edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* does not call for a separate title page; however, your professor may require one. Be sure you know your professor's preference.