

# How to Cite Sources: MLA Format

## Page Format:

- Label the page "Works Cited" – center it at the top of the page
- Make the first line of each entry in your list flush left with the margin. Subsequent lines in each entry should be indented one-half inch. This is known as a hanging indent.
- Double-space all entries, with no skipped spaces between entries.
- Alphabetize the list of works cited by the first word in each entry (usually the author's last name).
- Put only one space, not two, after a period.
- Use italics (instead of underlining) for titles of larger works (books, magazines) and quotation marks for titles of shorter works (poems, articles).
- All sources on the Works Cited page must identify the medium (Print or Web, or Film, DVD, TV, Performance). Note that Print signifies that you have accessed the material in hard copy; if you read a source online that is also available in hard copy (such as a newspaper), you must cite the Web source.

## Books

Author(s). *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Print.

### **Book with one author**

Henley, Patricia. *The Hummingbird House*. Denver: MacMurray, 1999. Print.

### **Book with more than one author**

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Boston: Allyn, 2000. Print.

Ahmad, Iftikhar, et al. *World Cultures: A Global Mosaic*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2004. Print.

## Part of a book (such as an essay in a collection or an article in a reference book)

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Collection*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pages. Print.

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.

"Jamaica." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 1999 ed. Print.

## Magazine or newspaper article

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Source* Day Month Year: pages. Print.

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

## **Electronic Sources**

It can be very tricky to figure out how to cite a Web source. Keep in mind that your goal is to provide sufficient information to enable someone else to locate the source without your help. While providing the URL would be the most direct way of enabling someone to find your source, as of 2009, MLA no longer requires the use of URLs in MLA citations because Web addresses change often and because documents sometimes appear in multiple places on the web.

If no author is given for a web page or electronic source, start with and alphabetize by the title of the piece and use a shortened version of the title for parenthetical citations. Below are some examples for web citations, but you can also find helpful information at the Purdue Online Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>

The basic format for citing a Web source is as follows, though not all sources will have all the information mentioned:

Author, editor or compiler name. "Title of article/work/internet page." *Title of Site/Project*. Version number, (including posting dates, volumes or issue numbers). Publisher information (including publisher name and publishing date). Web. Date of access.

### **A web site**

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). Web. 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. *Undergraduate Guide to Literary Theory*. Purdue University, 2008. Web. 18 Nov. 2011.

### **An article or source on a web site**

Author(s). "Article Title." *Name of web site*. Date of posting/revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with site. Web. Date of access.

Poland, Dave. "The Hot Button." *Roughcut*. 26 Oct. 1998. Turner Network Television. Web. 28 Oct. 1998.

Voltaire. "Letters on the English or Lettres Philosophiques, c. 1778." *Internet Modern History Sourcebook*. Fordham University, 1998. Web. 18 Nov. 2011.

### **An article in an online journal or magazine**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume. Issue (Year): Pages/Paragraphs. Web. Date of Access.

Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 6.6 (2000): 33 pars. Web. 5 Dec. 2000

### **An article from an online database (or other electronic subscription service)**

Cite articles from online databases (e.g. LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR) and other subscription services just as you would print sources. In addition to this information, provide the title of the database italicized, the medium of publication, and the date of access.

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal* 50.1 (2007): 173-96. *Proquest*. Web. 27 May 2009.