

## MLA Citation Format

One of the most important parts of writing a research paper is the documenting of the resources used. Accurate documentation is necessary to [avoid any question of plagiarism](#). The vehicles for providing this documentation are the use of in-text citations (or parenthetical references) at the point in the paper where the information is presented and the creation of a works cited page at the end of the paper listing all of the resources used in the paper. This guide includes samples of in-text citations and works cited entries from the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2008 (REF or 4<sup>th</sup> floor PN147 .G444 2008). For information on manuscript structure and content, writing mechanics, and other aspects of the publication process, please consult the MLA manual.

### In-Text Citations

- Must match the author or title words of the corresponding entry in the works cited list.
- Should identify the location of the borrowed information within the source, i.e. page or paragraph numbers, if available. If no page or paragraph numbers are provided, as in many electronic documents, do not include a parenthetical reference (see example under **If the source does not have page numbers...**).

### Placement of parenthetical reference

- Put the citation where a pause would naturally occur (preferably at the end of a sentence), as near as possible to the material documented.
- If using the author's name in the sentence, put only the page or paragraph number in the parentheses.

### In-Text Citation Examples

**Citing an entire work but not quoting any particular words** – include the name of the person being referenced in the text; all other info is in the works cited entry.

Gilbert and Gubar broke new ground on the subject.

But Anthony Hunt has offered another view.

**Citing the work of a single author** – include the author's last name and the page number(s) in the parentheses, no punctuation between them.

Loneliness is inversely related to communication competence (Reinking 55).

**If the author's name is used in the text** - no need to repeat it in the parentheses

Brian Taves suggests some interesting conclusions regarding the philosophy and politics of the adventure film (153-54, 171).

**If the source does not have page numbers, such as an electronic resource** – include paragraph number(s) with the appropriate abbreviation (par. or pars.) if the paragraphs are numbered and put a comma after the author’s name. Do not count paragraphs yourself if your source lacks numbering; cite it as an entire work.

“The debut of *Julius Caesar* proclaimed Shakespeare’s Globe a theater of courage and ideas” (Sohmer, par. 44).  
[Author, numbered paragraph]

According to Sohmer, “The debut of *Julius Caesar* proclaimed Shakespeare’s Globe a theater of courage and ideas” (par. 44). [Author is already in sentence, only numbered paragraph in parentheses]

According to Sohmer “The debut of *Julius Caesar* proclaimed Shakespeare’s Globe a theater of courage and ideas.”  
[There are no parentheses if there are no page numbers or no numbered paragraphs, as in many electronic documents]

**If there are 2 or 3 authors** – use “and” not “&”

(Gilbert and Gubar 14) or (Rabkin, Greenberg, and Olander 23) or (Smith and Jones, par. 36)

**If there are more than 3 authors** - You may follow the method for 3 authors if you want to list them all or you may use the first author and add et al. (No punctuation between author and et al.)

(Rabkin, Greenberg, Smith, Jones, and Olander 23) or (Rabkin et al. 23)

**If there is no author** – use the full title (if brief) or a shortened version of the title that corresponds with the entry in the works cited list. Use quotation marks to signify that it is a title.

A recent editorial called Ralph Ellison “a writer of universal reach” (“Death”). [Shortened title, no numbered paragraphs]

A recent editorial called Ralph Ellison “a writer of universal reach” (“Death of a Writer,” par. 2). [Full title, numbered paragraphs]

**Citing a work by a corporate author** – use the corporate name or a shortened form if the name is long; if there are similar entries in the works cited list use as much of the title as will make the source known to the reader.

(Public Agenda Foundation 4) or (Natl. Research Council 15) or (United Nations 34) or (United Nations. Economic Commission for Africa 34) if there are other UN Commissions cited.

**Citing a Legal Source** – use the abbreviation or title in text that you use in the works cited.

This copyright definition is spelled out in Title 17 (17 USC Sec. 304).

Oliver Brown challenged the Topeka Board of Education on this (Brown v. Board of Educ.).

**If quoting a phrase** - put the citation after the quotation marks.

Winters’s mumbling performs a “labor of disarticulation” (Litvak 167).

In the late Renaissance, Machiavelli contended that human beings were by nature “ungrateful” and “mutable” (1240), and Montaigne thought them “miserable and puny” (1343).

**If the quote constitutes fewer than 5 lines in your paper** – set it off with quotation marks and incorporate it into the text of the paper, as with the shorter phrase, with the reference following.

**If the quote exceeds 4 lines in your paper** – omit the quotation marks and indent the quote one inch from your left-hand margin. Put the parenthetical reference immediately after the quote.

## **Preparing the List of Works Cited** – General Rules that apply for all entries

- Double-space the entire list.
- Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line or lines one-half inch from the left margin. This is called hanging indentation and you can set your word processing program to do this automatically for a group of paragraphs.
- Arrange entries alphabetically by author's last name, first word of a corporate author, or first word of a title (if there is no author) excluding A, An, and The.
- Use the author's name as it appears on the title page, with full name or initials; do not change.
- Do not include degrees (PhD, etc.) or titles (Sir, Saint, etc).
- If using more than one work by an author, use ---. instead of the author's name for subsequent entries.
- In a title, capitalize the first word, the last word, and all principal words, including those that follow a hyphen in a compound term. Also capitalize the first word of a subtitle following a colon.
- Italicize the names of books, plays, films, newspapers, journals, magazines, pamphlets, Web sites, etc. and any work published independently.
- Use quotation marks for titles of works published within a larger work and for unpublished works; articles, essays, poems, stories, pages in Web sites, and chapters of books; unpublished manuscripts, lectures, and addresses delivered at conferences.
- Publication information – use city name only; no state, province or country.
- Date information within a citation is given in day, month, year; abbr. all months but May, June, July.
- Simplify publisher's name – McGraw for McGraw-Hill, Inc. or Norton for W.W. Norton and Co., Inc.
- Separate data elements by periods, i.e., Author. Title. Journal information. Publication information. Database information.etc.
- In each entry include the medium that was consulted – print, web, film, cd, etc.

**Works Cited Entries – Examples** - for more examples not covered here or further clarification refer to the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2008 (REF or 4<sup>th</sup> floor PN147 .G444 2008).

### **Print Non-Periodical Publications**

#### **Book with one author**

Johnson, Roberta. *Gender and Nation in the Spanish Modernist Novel*. Nashville: Vanderbilt UP, 2003. Print.

Buss, A. H. *Self-Consciousness and Social Anxiety*. San Francisco: Freeman, 1991. Print.

Mitchell, William J. *City of Bits: Space, Place, and the Informationbahn*. Cambridge: MIT P, 1995. Print.

#### **Book with 2 or 3 authors**

Welsch, Roger L., and Linda K. Welsch. *Cather's Kitchens: Foodways in Literature and Life*. Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 1987. Print.

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. Print.

**Books with more than 3 authors** - You may follow the method for 3 authors if you want to list them all or you may use the first author and add et al. (Unlike the in-text citation, add a comma after the authors name in the Works Cited)

Quirk, Randolph, et al. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. London: Longman, 1985. Print.

**Book with a corporate author**

American Council of Learned Societies. *Teaching the Humanities: Essays from the ACLS Elementary and Secondary Schools Teacher Curriculum Development Project*. New York: ACLS, 1994. Print.

Target Corporation. *Target Corporation Annual Report 2007*. Minneapolis: Target, 2007. Print.

**Book with no author listed on the title page**

*The Chicago Manual of Style*. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. Print.

*The Holy Bible*. Wheaton: Crossway-Good News, 2003. Print. Eng. Standard Vers.

**Brochure, pamphlet, or press release** – treat them as you would a book; add day and month to date for a press release.

Modern Language Association. *Modern Language Association Announces New and Improved MLA Language Map*. New York: MLA, 18 Apr. 2006. Print.

**Work in an anthology or edited book**

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. *A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America*. Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88. Print.

Good, T. L., and J. E. Brophy. "School Effects." *Handbook of Research on Teaching*. Ed. M. C. Wittock. New York: Macmillan, 1986. 570-602. Print.

**Article in a published proceeding** – same as a work in an edited book but including pertinent information about the conference.

Mann, Jill. "Chaucer and the 'Woman Question.'" *This Noble Craft: Proceedings of the Tenth Research Symposium of the Dutch and Belgian University Teachers of Old and Middle English and Historical Linguistics, Utrecht, 19-20 January 1989*. Ed. Erik Kooper. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1991. 173-88. Print.

**Entry/article from an encyclopedia or reference work**

Mohanty, Jitendra M. "Indian Philosophy." *The New Encyclopedia Britannica: Macropaedia*. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. 1987. Print.

"Ginsburg, Ruth Bader." *Who's Who in America*. 62<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2008. Print.

**Introduction, preface, foreword or afterword**

Drabble, Margaret. Introduction. *Middlemarch*. By George Eliot. New York: Bantam, 1985. vii-xvii. Print.

Brodsky, Joseph. "Poetry as a Form of Resistance to Reality." Foreword. *Winter Dialogue*. By Tomas Venclova. Trans. Diana Senechal. Evanston: Hydra-Northwestern UP, 1997. vii-xviii. Print.

### **Scholarly edition prepared for publication by someone other than the author**

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New York: Washington Square-Pocket, 1992. Print.

**Illustrated book or graphic narrative that is a collaborative work** – begin the entry with the name of the person whose contribution is most relevant to your research, following it with a label identifying the person's role.

Pekar, Harvey, writer. *The Quitter*. Art by Dean Haspiel. Gray tones by Lee Loughridge. Letters by Pat Brosseau. New York: Vertigo-DC Comics, 2005. Print.

Denslow, W. W., illus. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. By L. Frank Baum. Introd. Regina Barreca. New York: Signet-Penguin, 2006. Print.

### **Government document** – with and without a known author

New York State. Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century. *The Adirondack Park in the Twenty-First Century*. Albany: State of New York, 1990. Print.

United States. Cong. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Government Publications of the United States, September 5, 1774-March 4, 1881*. Comp. Benjamin Perley Poore. 48<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> sess. Misc. Doc. 67. Washington: GPO, 1885. Print.

### **Unpublished dissertation** – title is in quotes, not italics, since it is not a published book.

Stephenson, Denise R. "Blurred Distinctions: Emerging Forms of Academic Writing." Diss. U of New Mexico, 1996. Print.

### **Published dissertation**

Valentine, Mary-Blair Truesdell. *An Investigation of Gender-Based Leadership Styles of Male and Female Officers in the United States Army*. Diss. George Mason U, 1993. Ann Arbor: UMI. 1993. Print.

## **Print Periodical Publications**

### **Article in a print journal with volume and issue numbers**

Piper, Andrew. "Rethinking the Print Object: Goethe and the Book of Everything." *PMLA* 121.1 (2006): 124-38. Print.

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3-4 (1981): 77-80. Print.

Tibullus, Albius. "How to Be Tibullus." Trans. David Wray. *Chicago Review* 48.4 (2002-03): 102-06. Print.

### **Article in a print journal without a volume number, only an issue number**

Chau, Marilena. "Politica cultural, cultura politica." *Brasil* 13 (1995): 9-24. Print.

### **Article in a print magazine with no volume or number, only a date – use + if pages are not consecutive.**

Kaminer, Wendy. "The Last Taboo." *New Republic* 14 Oct. 1996: 24+. Print.

McEvoy, Dermot. "Little Books, Big Success." *Publishers Weekly* 30 Oct. 2006: 26-28. Print.

### **Article with no author**

"Dubious Venture." *Time* 3 Jan. 1994:64-65. Print.

**Article in a newspaper** – give location of newspaper if not included in the name; do not include volume and issue; include edition if named on the masthead; if each section is paginated separately, include the section number or letter.

Rosenberg, Geanne. "Electronic Discovery Proves an Effective Legal Weapon." *New York Times* 31 Mar. 1997, late ed.: D5. Print.

Taylor, Paul. "Keyboard Grief: Coping with Computer-Caused Injuries." *Globe and Mail* [Toronto] 27 Dec. 1993:A1+. Print.

### **Review of a book or movie**

Rev. of *Anthology of Danish Literature*, ed. F. J. Billeskov and P. M. Mitchell. *Times Literary Supplement* 7 July 1972: 785. Print

Updike, John. "Fine Points." Rev. of *The New Fowler's Modern English Usage*, ed. R. W. Burchfield. *New Yorker* 23-30 Dec. 1996:142-49. Print.

Mendelsohn, Daniel. "September 11 at the Movies." Rev. of *United 93*, dir. Paul Greengrass, and *World Trade Center*, dir. Oliver Stone. *New York Review of Books* 21 Sept. 2006:43-46. Print.

### **Editorial and letter to the editor**

"It's Subpoena Time." Editorial. *New York Times* 8 June 2007, late ed.: A28. Print.

Carlos, Sabarimuthu. Letter. *PMLA* 119.3 (2004): 555. Print.

**Web Publications** – "include URL as supplementary information only when the reader probably cannot locate the source without it" – put at the end of the entry in angle brackets < > followed by a period.

### **Work published only on the Web**

Include as much of the following as is available:

- author, editor, corporate author, etc.
- title of work (italicized if independent, in quotes if part of a larger work)
- title of overall Web site (italicized), if distinct from above
- untitled works may be identified by a genre label (e.g., Home page, Introduction, Online posting)
- version or edition used

- publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use N.p.
- date of publication (day, month, and year, as available); if not available, use n.d.
- medium of publication (Web)
- date of access (day, month, and year)

*Bartleby.com: Great Books Online*. Bartleby.com, 2008. Web. 1 Aug. 2008.

Committee on Scholarly Editions. "Guidelines for Editors of Scholarly Editions." *Modern Language Association*.  
MLA. 25 Sept. 2007. Web. 20 Nov. 2007.

Concerto Palatino, perf. "Canzon à 6 per l'Epistola." By Giovanni Priuli. *Boston Early Music Festival and Exhibition*.  
Boston Early Music Festival, 2003. Web. 20 July 2007.

Garza Landa, Josè Angel, comp. *A Bibliography of Literary Theory, Criticism and Philology*. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. U de Zaragoza,  
2007. Web. 29 Nov. 2007.

Lessig, Lawrence. "Free Debates: More Republicans Call on RNC." *Lessig 2.0* N.p. 4 May 2007. Web. 20 Nov. 2007.

Liu, Alan, ed. Home page. *Voice of the Shuttle*. Dept. of English, U of California, Santa Barbara, n.d. Web. 21 Feb.  
2007.

"Maplewood, New Jersey." Map. *Google Maps*. Google, 23 July 2007. Web. 23 July 2007.

Quade, Alex. "Elite Team Rescues Troops behind Enemy Lines." *CNN.com*. Cable News Network, 19 Mar. 2007.  
Web. 19 Mar. 2007.

"The Scientists Speak." Editorial. *New York Times*. New York Times, 20 Nov. 2007. Web. 20 Nov. 2007.

Target Corporation. *Target Corporation Annual Report 2007*. Target, 2007. Web. 8 Aug. 2008.

"Verb Tenses." Chart. *The OWL at Purdue*. Purdue U Online Writing Lab, 2001. Web. 23 July 2007.

Yager, Susan, narr. "The Former Age." By Geoffrey Chaucer. *Chaucer Metapage*. Ed. Mark E. Allen et al. U of  
North Carolina, 13 Feb. 2007. Web. 30 Nov. 2007.

### **Print publication also made available on the Web and retrieved from the Web**

Bierce, Ambrose. "Academy." *The Devil's Dictionary. The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce*. Vol. 7. New York:  
Neale, 1911. N. pag. *The Ambrose Bierce Project*. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.

Whitman, Walt. Preface. *Leaves of Grass*. By Whitman. Brooklyn, 1855. iii-xii. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. Web. 12  
Mar. 2007.

### **Journal/magazine published on the Web**

Wood, Michael. "The Last Night of All." *PMLA* 122.5 (2008): 1394-402. Web. 22 Jan. 2008.

Oellette, Marc. "Theories, Memories, Bodies, and Artists." Editorial. *Reconstruction* 7.4 (2007): n. pag. Web. 28 Nov.  
2007.

### **Article or book available in a database**

- Antunez, Beth, and Michael Casserly. *Title III of No Child Left Behind: A Status Report from the Great City Schools, Fall 2004*. Washington: Council of the Great City Schools, 2004. *ERIC*. ED486424. Web. 1 Aug. 2008.
- “As Deaf Culture Changes, So Do the Questions.” Narr. Neal Conan. *Talk of the Nation*. Natl. Public Radio. 12 Oct. 2006. *LexisNexis*. Web. 5 Aug. 2008. Transcript.
- Boren, David. *Preparing America’s Foreign Policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Norman: U of Oklahoma P, 1999. *NetLibrary*. Web. 1 Aug. 2008.
- Clemmitt, Marcia. “Internet Accuracy.” *CQ Researcher* 18.27 (1 Aug. 2008): 625-48. *CQ Researcher Online*. Web. 5 Aug. 2008.
- Evangelista, Stephano. Rev. of *Victorian and Edwardian Responses to the Italian Renaissance*, ed. John E. Law and Lene Ostermark-Johansen. *Victorian Studies* 46.4 (2006): 729-31. *Academic Search Elite*. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.
- Kallini, Jason. “Most Regulations on Gun Ownership Are Not Reasonable.” *Opposing Viewpoints: Gun Control*. Ed. Tami Roleff. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2007. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 5 Aug. 2008.
- Richardson, Lynda. “Minority Students Languish in Special Education System.” *New York Times* 6 Apr. 1994, late ed.: A1+. Pt. 1 of a series, *A Class Apart: Special Education in New York City*. *LexisNexis*. Web. 15 Aug. 2007.
- Tolson, Nancy. “Making Books Available: The Role of Libraries, Librarians, and Booksellers in the Promotion of African American Children’s Literature.” *African American Review* 32.1 (1997): 9-16. *JSTOR*. Web. 1 Oct. 2002.

**Abstract in a database** – when quoting from an abstract where the article is not available.

- Clark, Eve V. “Young Children's Uptake of New Words in Conversation.” *Language in Society* 36.2 (2007): 157-82. Abstract. *Sociological Abstracts*. Web. 4 Aug. 2008.

### **Additional Types of Resources**

#### **Television or radio show or episode**

- “Frederick Douglass.” *Civil War Journal*. Narr. Danny Glover. Dir. Craig Haffner. Arts and Entertainment Network. 6 Apr. 1993. Television.
- “The Phantom of Corleone.” Narr. Steve Kroft. *Sixty Minutes*. CBS. WCBS, New York, 10 Dec. 2006. Television.
- “Shakespearean Putdowns.” Narr. Robert Siegel and Linda Wertheimer. *All Things Considered*. Natl. Public Radio. WNYC, New York, 6 Apr. 1994. Radio.

**Film or DVD** – required: title, director, distributor, year of release and medium; may also include screenwriter, performers and producer, if they seem pertinent (between the title and the distributor).

*It's a Wonderful Life*. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946. Film.

*It's a Wonderful Life*. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. 1946. Republic, 2001. DVD.

*Like Water for Chocolate* [*Como agua para chocolate*]. Screenplay by Laura Esquivel. Dir. Alfonso Arau. Perf. Lumi Cavazos, Marco Lombardi, and Regina Torne. Miramax, 1993. Film.

*Looking at Our Earth: A Visual Dictionary*. Natl. Geographic Educ. Services, 1992. Sound filmstrip.

**Television, radio, film, DVD, etc. where a particular individual's contribution is the source of your research**

Mifune, Toshiro, perf. *Rashomon*. Dir. Akira Kurosawa. Daiei, 1950. Film.

Kurosawa, Akira, dir. *Rashomon*. Perf. Toshiro Mifune. 1950. Home Vision, 2001. Videocassette.

**Live performance or work of a particular individual in a performance**

*The River*. Chor. Alvin Ailey. Dance Theater of Harlem. New York State Theater, New York. 15 Mar. 1994. Performance.

Culkin, Kieran, perf. *Suburbia*. By Eric Bogosian. Second Stage Theatre, New York. 16 Sept. 2006. Performance.

**Visual art** – give information about the work, and the ownership and then the source of the reproduction (if not the original).

Bearden, Romare. *The Train*. 1975. Photogravure and aguatint. Museum of Mod. Art, New York. *MoMA.org*. Web. 5 Aug. 2008.

Eakins, Thomas. *Spinning*. 1881. Private collection. *Thomas Eakins*. Ed. Darrel Sewell. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Museum of Art in assn. with Yale UP, 2001. Plate 91. Print.

**Interview – published/broadcasted and personal**

Blackmun, Harry. Interview by Ted Koppel and Nina Totenberg. *Nightline*. ABC. WABC, New York. 5 Apr. 1994. Television.

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

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

Reed, Ishmael. Telephone interview. 10 Dec. 2007.

**Cartoon or Comic Strip**

Chast, Roz. Cartoon. *New Yorker* 4 Feb. 2002: 53. Print.

Trudeau, Garry. "Doonesbury." Comic strip. *Star-Ledger* [Newark] 4 May 2002: 26. Print.

## **Advertisement**

Air Canada. Advertisement. CNN. 1 Apr. 1997. Television.

Baccarat. Advertisement. *New York Nov.* 2007: 4. Print.

## **Letter, memo or e-mail**

Woolf, Virginia. "To T. S. Eliot." 28 July 1920. Letter 1138 of *The Letters of Virginia Woolf*. Ed. Nigel Nicolson and Joanne Trautmann. Vol. 2. New York: Harcourt, 1976. 437-38. Print.

Sorby, Angela. Letter to the author. 20 July 2003. MS. [manuscript]

Cahill, Daniel J. Memo to English dept. fac., Brooklyn Technical High School, New York. 1 June 2000. TS. [typescript]

Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." Message to Daniel J. Cahill. 21 June 1997. E-mail.

Harner, James L. Message to the author. 20 Aug. 2002. E-mail.

## **Legal Sources – examples for print and database versions**

17 USCS. Sec. 304. 2008. Print.

17 USCS. Sec. 304. 2008. *LexisNexis*. Web. 4 Aug. 2008.

Aviation and Transportation Security Act. Pub. L. 107-71. 115 Stat. 597-647. 19 Nov. 2001. Print.

Aviation and Transportation Security Act. Pub. L. 107-71. 115 Stat. 597-647. 19 Nov. 2001. *Westlaw Campus*. Web. 4 Aug. 2008.

Brown v. Board of Educ. of Topeka. 98 L. Ed. 873-884. Supreme Court of the United States. 1954. Print.

Brown v. Board of Educ. of Topeka. 347 U.S. 483; 74 S. Ct. 686; 98 L. Ed. 873. Supreme Court of the United States. 1954. *LexisNexis*. Web. 4 Aug. 2008.

Compiled by Linda Coppola using citations directly from the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* or creating citations based on the rules outlined therein. Updated 9/2011 by Lara Nicosia. Please contact Lara Nicosia with any questions: [ldnwml@rit.edu](mailto:ldnwml@rit.edu) or 475-2626.