# MLA Format
7th edition
(Updated: August 2014)

## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is MLA?</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handling Quotes in Your Text</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citing Web Pages</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Quotations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Quotations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Works Cited List</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Rules</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Sources (including Interviews)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excerpting Services (Literary Criticism)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Sources</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Sites</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Magazines Published on the Web</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Newspapers Published on the Web</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Government Documents</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Subscription Databases</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credo Reference</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProQuest</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBSCOhost</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQ Researcher</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACTSonFile</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposing Viewpoints</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Video Databases</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Specific Databases (arranged alphabetically)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Books</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation Chart</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample First Page of a Research Paper</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Works Cited Page</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MLA Format

What is MLA format?

- MLA, or Modern Language Association, format is the most common form of parenthetical or end note documentation used in academic writing.
- This handout is a brief summary of standard MLA format. For more complete information, please see the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition, or speak to a librarian or a Learning Center writing tutor.

Handling Quotes in your Text:

- The author’s last name and the page number(s) must appear in the text
  - either in the sentence itself: Ex.: Freud states that “a dream is the fulfillment of a wish” (154).
  - or in parentheses following the quote: Ex.: Some argue that “a dream is the fulfillment of a wish” (Freud 154).
    - the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses.
- If more than one author has the same last name, provide the author’s initials (or even her or his full name if different authors share initials) in the citation: Ex.: Some gothic novels feature a character in “the dark tyranny of despair” (M. W. Shelley 12).
- If there is more than one work by a particular author, include a shortened title for the particular work quoted: Ex.: The Romantic poets demonstrate a concern with the fleeting nature of life: “‘My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: / Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!’ / Nothing beside remains” (P.B. Shelley, “Ozymandias” 10-12).
- A complete reference is included in the Works Cited list (see sample page 14).

Citing Web Pages:

- Works on the web are cited just like printed works.
- Web documents generally do not have page numbers or section numbering.
  - Page numbers of a printout should normally not be cited, because the pagination may vary according to the printer.
- If the source includes page numbers or section numbering (sometimes in PDF documents), cite the relevant numbers.
- For numbers other than page numbers, give the appropriate abbreviation before the numbers: (Moulthrop, pars. 19-20). (Pars. is the abbreviation for paragraphs.)
SHORT QUOTATIONS

- For short (fewer than four typed lines of prose or three lines of verse) in-text quotations, enclose the quotation within double quotation marks.
- Provide the author and specific page citation (in the case of verse, provide line numbers) either in the text or in parentheses following the quote.
- Punctuation marks such as periods, commas, and semicolons should appear after the parenthetical citation.

Examples of author tags:
According to some, dreams express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.

or
According to Foulkes’s study, dreams may express “profound aspects of personality” (184).

- Question marks and exclamation points appear within the quotation marks if they are a part of the quote, but after the parenthetical citation if they are part of your text. Ex.: Did Freud say “a dream is the fulfillment of a wish”? (154).

- Words quoted by the original author in the selection are indicated using single quotation marks inside the quote. Ex.: The article reported “teenagers punctuate their sentences with ‘cool’ and ‘like’” (15).

LONG QUOTATIONS

- Quotations longer than four typed lines are set off in a free-standing block of typewritten lines.
- Omit quotation marks.
- Start the quotation on a new line, with the whole block indented one inch from the left margin.
- Maintain double-spacing.
- The parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.
- When quoting verse, maintain original line breaks.

Example:
Ralph and the other boys finally realized the horror of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (Golding 186)

THE WORKS CITED LIST

- This list, alphabetized by authors' last names, is at the end of the paper (see sample on p. 14 of this handout).
- The Works Cited list provides the information necessary to locate and retrieve any sources cited in the paper.
- Each source cited in the paper must appear in the Works Cited list.
- Likewise, each entry in the Works Cited list must be cited in the text.
**BASIC RULES:**

- Authors’ names are inverted (last name, first name).
- For works with more than one author, only the first author's name is inverted, followed by a comma. The rest of the authors are listed (first name last name) in the same order they appear on the title page.
- For more than three authors, the first author’s name is followed by et al. (meaning “and others”).
- If citing more than one work by a particular author, order the sources alphabetically by title, and use three hyphens in place of the author's name for every entry after the first.
- When an author appears both as the sole author of a text and as the first author of a group, list solo-author entries first.
- If no author is given, alphabetize by the title of the piece, ignoring any initial *A, An, or The.*
- If the title of the piece begins with a number, the title should be alphabetized as if the numeral were spelled out. For example, *1914: The Coming of the First World War* should be alphabetized as if it began *Nineteen-Fourteen.*
- The first line of each entry in the list should be flush left. Subsequent lines should be indented one-half inch. This is known as a “hanging indent.”
- All references should be double-spaced.
- Capitalize each word in the titles of articles, books, etc. but NOT *a, an, the,* conjunctions, or prepositions, unless they are the first word of the title or follow a colon in a title.
- Italicize titles of books, journals, magazines, newspapers, films, and Web sites.
- Indicate whether the source is print, Web, or other media.
- Check with your instructor to see if URLs should be included in your Web site citations. If using a URL, remove the hyperlink and place the URL following the date of access, a period, and a space: 7 May 2001. <URL>.

**Citing Multiple Authors**

**Two authors**


**Three authors**


**More than three authors**

## PRINT SOURCES

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

**Example:**

### A part of a book (such as an essay in a collection):
Author(s). “Title of Article.” *Title of Collection.* Ed. Editor's Name(s). Number of Volumes. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pages. Print.

**Example:**

### A periodical:
**Article in a newspaper or magazine:**
Author(s). “Title of Article.” *Title of Source* Day Month Year: pages. Print.

**Example:**

**Article in a scholarly journal:**

**Example:**

### An interview:
Name of the person interviewed. Type of interview. Date of the interview.

**Example:**
Pongracz, Matthew L. Personal interview. 3 Aug. 2009.
Rivers, Jennifer A. E-mail interview. 27 July 2009.

**Online interview example:**
Excerpting Services:

The following “Excerpting Services” examples are used with print sources that reproduce portions of books or journal articles in a new source. Information on the original material is included with the excerpt.

Examples of excerpting services include the Gale literary criticism series, such as Poetry Criticism, Short Story Criticism, and Contemporary Literary Criticism.

The abbreviation “Rpt.” as used below stands for “reprinted.”

Citing criticism originally published in a book:

Example:

Citing criticism originally published in a periodical:

Example:

Citing online criticism originally published in a periodical:

Example:
These are some basic examples of MLA-style citations for information taken from electronic sources. For more examples, see the MLA Handbook section listed on the right in parentheses.

*If you cannot find some of this information, cite what is available and use:*
- n.d. No date of publication given
- n. pag. No pagination given
- n.p. No publisher or sponsor given

### BASIC INSTRUCTIONS: MLA, 7th edition no longer requires URLs (web site addresses) to be included in citations. However, if your instructor requires the URLs, please use the examples below as a guide.

#### A document from a Web site: *(MLA Handbook: 5.6.2b)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title of Document. *Name of Web Site. Publisher or Sponsoring Institution, Date of Posting/Revision. Web. Day Month Year of Access. &lt;electronic address, in angle brackets&gt;.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### An article from an online magazine: *(MLA Handbook: 5.6.2b)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title of Article. <em>Title of Magazine.</em> Name of Sponsor, Day Month Year of publication: pages, if available. Web. Date of Access. &lt;electronic address, in angle brackets&gt;.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### An article from an online journal *(MLA Handbook: 5.6.3)*

|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

#### An article from an online newspaper:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title of Article. <em>Title of Newspaper.</em> Publisher or Sponsor, Day Month Year of publication. Web. Date of Access. &lt;electronic address, in angle brackets&gt;.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### An article from an online government publication: *(MLA Handbook: 5.5.20/5.6.2c)*

| Author (if known) or name of government. Name of agency. *Title of publication.* Web. Date of Access. <electronic address, in angle brackets>. |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
### BASIC INSTRUCTIONS:

**An article from an online database - journal:**  
(MLA Handbook: 5.4 / 5.6.4)  
Author(s). “Title of Article.” *Title of Journal* Volume . Issue (year): pages. *Name of Database*. Web. Day Month Year of download. [if pages are not available use n. pag.]

**An article from an online database - magazine:**  
(MLA Handbook: 5.4/ 5.6.4)  
Author(s). “Title of Article.” *Title of Magazine* Day Month Year of publication: pages. *Name of Database*. Web. Day Month Year of download.

**An article from an online database – newspaper:**  
(MLA Handbook: 5.4 / 5.6.4)  
Author(s). “Title of Article.” *Title of Newspaper* Day Month Year of publication: section letter page numbers. *Name of Database*. Web. Day Month Year of download.

### GENERAL REFERENCE DATABASES

**Credo Reference**  

### GENERAL PERIODICAL DATABASES

**ProQuest**  
(journal)  

(magazine)  

(newspaper)  

**EBSCOhost**

*EBSCOhost* allows you to search across a variety of databases. When citing, include the specific database where the document was located. Use the citation format provided in *EBSCOhost* as a guide.


CQ Researcher

FACTSonFile
*(magazine – “Issues & Controversies”)*

*(magazine – “Today’s Science”)*

*(“World News Digest”)*

*(“World Almanac Encyclopedia”)*

Opposing Viewpoints in Context
*(viewpoints essay)*

*(magazine article)*

*(journal article)*

*(newspaper article)*

ONLINE VIDEO DATABASES
American History in Video

Films on Demand
### SUBJECT SPECIFIC DATABASES

**Access Science**

**The African American Experience**

**Artemis Literary Sources (Gale)**
Artemis allows you to search across a variety of literature databases. When citing, include the specific database where the document was located. Use the citation format provided with the document as a guide.


**CINAHL**

**Hoover’s Online**

**JSTOR**

**MagillOnLiteraturePLUS (EBSCO)**


**PsycARTICLES**
### PubMed Central

### U.S. History in Context


### Vocational Biographies

### Westlaw Campus

### Law Cases (in Westlaw Campus) (MLA Handbook:5.7.14)
These are some basic examples of MLA-style citations for information taken from electronic sources. For more examples, see the *MLA Handbook* section listed on the right in parentheses.

### BASICS:

**An article or section from an online book** *(MLA Handbook: 5.6.2)*

Author(s). *Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. *Name of service or database*. Web. Day Month Year of download.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Gale Virtual Reference Library</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Knovel</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OCLC NetLibrary</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Safari</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
## CITATION CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>SAMPLE CITATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TYPE</td>
<td>SOURCE</td>
<td>SAMPLE CITATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Fishing Creek Confederacy

In 1846 the military occupation of Columbia County, Pennsylvania, began. The cause of this occupation was stated as a Copperhead movement in the area ("Copperheads" 421). Insurgents "had erected a fort… they had field-pieces or cannon, and …refugees from Canada and deserters from other sections had joined them in considerable forces" (Freeze 401). The formation of this movement was a significant stage in Columbia County history.

The state of Pennsylvania, in 1862, had ordered the draft to supply 821 men to fill the quota for Columbia County. Captain Richard Dodge’s report to James B. Fry, the provost marshal general, is recorded in the Official Records.

In several counties of the western Division of Pennsylvania, particularly in Columbia and Cambria, I am credibly informed that there are large bands of deserters and delinquent drafted men, banded together, armed, and organized for resistance to the U. S. authorities. This organized resistance to the County alone numbers about 500 men: in Cambria it is said to be larger. These men are encouraged in their course by every means by political opponents of the Administration. (607)

There was considerable opposition to this draft, and a series of semi-public meetings were held in the local sections to discuss the situation.


Pei, I.M. Personal interview. 22 July 2009.

Rowling, J.K. E-mail interview. 8-12 May 2009.


