

# MLA Citation Style Guide (Traditional Sources)

This page is designed to be a quick reference guide to the MLA style of documenting sources in research papers. Your "Works Cited" section should appear at the end of your paper and works should be arranged alphabetically by author (or title, if no author appears in the entry). List only works you actually cited. (Your teacher may also request a list of works consulted.) Entries should be double spaced. For further information about types of entries not listed here, consult Joseph Gibaldi's *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

## BOOKS

### **One Author**

English, Carol. The Cliffs Won't Do: Read the Book. Philadelphia: McGraw-Hill, 1997.

### **Multiple Citations by the Same Author**

Small, Chris. Please, Help Me Carry My Keys! Topeka: Rand, 1993.

---. Don't Measure a Chemist by Her Size. New York: Feminist, 1993.

## **Two or Three Authors**

Drucker, Darla, and Amy Jones. How to Survive Your Wedding. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997.

## **Corporate Author**

Wissahickon Home Economics Department. Cooking with Spice. New York: Scribners, 1993.

## **Editor**

Valenza, Joyce, ed. Bagels and Books: An Anthology. Brooklyn, NY: Random House, 1991.

## **Work in an Anthology**

Smith, James. "The Physics of Sushi." The Fabulous Physics Paper. Ed. Samuel Klein. Rome, GA: Cambridge UP, 1954. 46-59.

## **REFERENCE BOOKS**

### **Signed Article**

Copaset, Sandra. "Zen and the Art of Wearing Blue and Khaki." Encyclopedia Americana. 1996 ed.

### **Unsigned Article**

"Best Beards of All Time." Encyclopedia of Anatomy and Hair. 15th ed. 1993.

## JOURNALS AND PERIODICALS

### **Article in a Journal with Continuous Pagination**

Skater, Andrew. "Rollerblading on a Secondary Level." Secondary Education 54(1990): 113-25.

### **Article from a Monthly or Bimonthly Periodical**

Ramsey, Pamela. "Where's My Smiley Face?" MacWorld Sept. 1997: 86-94.

### **Article from a Weekly or Biweekly Periodical**

Henry, Mary Ann. "Announcing Bus Changes with Flair." Time 4 July 1991: 71-76.

## NEWSPAPERS

### **Signed Article**

Goldberg, Grace. "The Inside Track: Alumni Life." Trojan Times 10 Oct. 1991: 17.

### **Unsigned Article**

"Striking a Pose with Sally Miles." New York Times 15 Oct. 1997, sec. 1, 35.

### **FACTS ON FILE**

"Berger's Greatest Speeches." Facts On File World News Digest 3 Sept. 1998: 535.

## FILMS AND RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS

"Starring the Other Peggy Lee." Slightly Off Broadway—The Series. Prod.

Sheldon Wang. PBS. WNET, New York. 6 Aug. 1995.

Making Creative Bookcovers. Dir. Tom Martin. Videocassette. Clemens, 1997.

## PERSONAL OR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Craig, John. Personal interview. 23 Sept. 1994.

## CITING WORKS WITHIN YOUR TEXT

To document your sources, cite the author's name and the page number of the source in parentheses at the end of the sentence before the period.

Lowfat cream cheese can save you 300 grams of fat per year (Valenza 35).

If the author's name is used in your sentence, you may just refer to page numbers:

Copaset argues that "yellow simply does not interact well with khaki" (45).

If you are referring to the whole work rather than a specific section, you may omit any reference in parentheses.

Berger's main thesis is that by using motifs, organic unity is easier to achieve.

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# Citations for Electronic Sources

Web sites devoted to *cybercitation* vary in their interpretation of how MLA applies to online sources. What is most important in documenting electronic resources is to give the reader as much essential information as possible (author, title, publication data) to identify the source you are citing. Style information is based on Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* 4th ed., New York: Modern Language Association, 1995.

### **CD-ROMs**

#### **Non-periodical**

Name of author (if given). "Title of Part of Work." Title of Product. Edition or release, if given. Publication medium (CD-ROM). City of publication: Publisher, year of publication.

Wallechinsky, David. "Olympic Games." World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia. 3.20b. CD-ROM. Chicago: World Book, 1996.

#### **Periodical**

Name of author (if available). "Title of Article." Title of Journal or Newspaper publication information for printed source. Title of database. Publication medium (CD-ROM). Name of Vendor. Electronic publication date.

Nethead, Jane. "Email Rules." New York Times 15 November 1995, late ed.: B3. New York Times Ondisc. CD-ROM. UMI-ProQuest. Jan. 1996.

## WORLD WIDE WEB

Author (if known). "Title of Page or Document." Title of Site or Larger Work  
(if applicable). Date of document. Online. Available  
<http://address/filename>. Date of access.

Cassutto, George. "Social Studies and the World Wide Web." 8 June 1996.  
Online. Available <http://www.fred.net/nhhs/html3/article3.htm>.  
25 Sept. 1996.

"Graf Has Look of a Champion." ESPNET SportsZone. 29 Aug. 1996. Online.  
Available <http://www.espn.com/gen/top/0108716001.html>. 30 Aug.  
1996.

## ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Author. "Title of Article." Title of Reference Work. Online. Title of the  
Database or Online Service. Date of access.

Cook, Sarah Gibbard. "Berlin, Germany." Compton's Living Encyclopedia.  
Online. America Online. 27 Aug. 1997.

## GOPHER

Author. "Title of Document or File." Date of publication (if available). Online.  
Available gopher: address, path. Date of access.

Allen, Gary. "Grants for Math and Science Education." 8 Nov. 1996. Online.

Available gopher: [enc.org/Professional Development Resources](http://enc.org/Professional%20Development%20Resources). 20  
Dec. 1997.

### **LISTSERV**

Author. "Subject of Message." Date of post. Online posting. Name of  
[listserv@E-mail](mailto:listserv@E-mail) address of list. Date of access.

Bookman, Emily. "Re: Bulletin Board Ideas." 5 Nov. 1997. Online posting.  
LM\_NET@listserv.syr.edu 20 Nov. 1997.

### **USENET NEWSGROUP**

Author. "Title of Item." Date of post. Online posting. Newsgroup name.  
Usenet. Date of access.

Brown, Carol. "Stress and Test Taking." 8 Mar. 1997. Online posting.  
k12.ed.research. Usenet. 28 Mar. 1997.

### **ONLINE CHAT**

Name of speaker (if available). Date of session. Online. IRC address, IRC  
channel name.

Yente, Ima. Online. 24 Oct. 1997. Online. telnet: [IRC@kids.ccit.duq.edu](telnet://IRC@kids.ccit.duq.edu),  
Channel #KIDCLU+.

### **JOURNAL MATERIAL FROM A ONLINE DATABASE**

Author. "Article Title." Periodical Title. Date of print publication (if  
available). Edition (if any): pages. Database Name (if any). Online.

Name of computer service. Date of access.

Keizer, Gregg. "Write the Perfect Paper." Family PC. Sept. 1996. Online.

America Online. 25 Nov. 1996.

### **E-MAIL**

Warning: Though many style sheets advise listing personal E-mail addresses in a citation, there is the danger of violating the privacy of the author or the recipient. The MLA Handbook does not recommend including addresses.

Author of E-mail message. "Subject line of message." E-mail to recipient's

name. Date of message.

Valenza, Joyce. "What to wear at the conference." E-mail to Jane Nethead.

27 Sept. 1996.

### **E-mail Sent to You**

Nethead, Jane. "Enjoying the Web." Personal E-mail. 29 Sept. 1996.

For further information on MLA style see:

**A Research Guide for Students**

**Purdue University Online Writing Lab**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>