Modern Language Association (MLA) Style is commonly used for academic writing in a wide range of subjects and disciplines, particularly in the arts and humanities. These guidelines are based on the 7th edition of the handbook, 2009. In general:

- Most citations include 4 key elements: (1) author’s name, (2) title or source, (3) publication information, and (4) format of publication.
- Italicize titles of larger works, such as books or magazines; use quotation marks for titles within larger works (book chapter, article title, poem).
- Follow elements with a period and one space. Citations are double-spaced throughout with a ½” hanging indent.
- Order the Works Cited list alphabetically by the first element in the citation, usually the author.
- Consult the MLA Handbook (available at the reference desk) or OWL – the Online Writing Lab at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ for more examples.
- Try NoodleBib, an online citation composer tool provided by your library (good for creating and organizing Works Cited lists).

This guide includes citation examples for:

Print Sources: Books (p1), Encyclopedias (p2), Articles (p3) | Online Sources: Web sites & Databases (p4) | Audiovisual and Other Non-Print Sources (p5) | In-Text Notes (p5) | Formatting (p6)

PRINT SOURCES

Anatomy of a Print Book Citation
Below is a citation for a book with a single author, which contains five elements: author, title, publication information, date, and publication medium. Consult the title page and the back of the title page for citation information.


Books

By a single author

Two authors
Books, cont.

Three authors

More than three authors

Unknown author

Collection produced by an editor

Essay or Chapter within a collection or anthology

Encyclopedias

A simplified citation is commonly used for well-known general encyclopedias. Include publication information for subject encyclopedias. Include volume or page number(s) only if the articles are not in alphabetical order.

General encyclopedia article

Subject encyclopedia article

Article in a multi-volume work not in alphabetical order

Entire reference work

Used two or more volumes of a multivolume work

Articles

Journal article

Article in a weekly publication
Articles, cont.

**Article in a monthly publication**

**Newspaper article**

**Editorial**

**Book or movie review**

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**ONLINE SOURCES**

**Anatomy of an Online Periodical Article Citation**
Standard elements for a periodical article are: author’s name, article title, periodical name, issue date, and page number(s).

- For magazine and newspaper citations, include the complete date of publication.
- For journal citations, include the volume and issue number and the publication year.

Below is a citation for an online magazine article from a research database.


**Databases**
Include author (if named); title of the article or page within the web site (in quotes); name of the web site (italics); publisher or sponsor (if unavailable, use N.p.); document date or date of the last revision (if unavailable, use n.d.); the medium (Web); the date you accessed the site. Include the URL only when the reader cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it. Enclose it in angle brackets following the date of access.

**Journal article from a database such as Academic Search Premier**

**Magazine article from a database such as Academic Search Premier**

**Newspaper article from a database such as Academic Search Premier**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Date of Publication</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Date Accessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Web Sites

- **Book from a web site**

- **Magazine article from publisher’s web site**

- **Newspaper article from publisher’s web site**

- **Entire web site, no author**

- **Page or article within a web site, with date and publisher**

- **No publisher or sponsor, no date**

- **Personal web page**

- **Blog post**

- **Federal government publication**
AUDIOVISUAL, IMAGES, INTERVIEWS & OTHER NON-PRINT SOURCES

In general, citations for AV materials should include composer, performer, or director (if available), title, manufacturer or distributor, date (if unknown use n.d.), and medium. Other elements vary depending on the type of material, so refer to the MLA Handbook.

Television program


Radio


Film (VHS or DVD)

*What the Bleep Do We (K)now!* Dir. Morgan Spurlock. 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2004. DVD.

Online Video from a database such as Films On Demand


Online Video such as YouTube


Music recording (song from a CD)


A Work of Visual Art


Personal Interview


Map


IN-TEXT NOTES

The author’s last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or idea is taken must appear in the text.

- The author’s name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase.
- If there is no author, use an abbreviated version of the work’s title as listed in the entry on the Works Cited page.
- Show page number(s) in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. If there are no page numbers, as is the case with many web sources, no number can be listed in the parenthetical reference.

For the following citation:


Paraphrase, Author in sentence

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Paraphrase, Author in parentheses

The poet extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (Wordsworth 263).
An anonymous Wordsworth critic once argued that his poems were too emotional ("Wordsworth Is A Loser" 100).

With research showing varying results, it is difficult to predict the extent to which the cochlear implant will make a significant difference for deaf children. (Christiansen & Leigh 318).

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Wordsworth 263).

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

All examples from: OWL Online Writing Lab <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>. See the MLA Handbook for more examples.

**FORMATTING CITATIONS in MICROSOFT WORD**

To format hanging indentation

1. Highlight the entire citation, then right click and select *Paragraph*. Choose the *Indents and Spacing* tab.
2. In the *Indentation* section, find the *Special* list, and select *Hanging*.
3. In the *By* box, set the amount of space for the hanging indent (.5” is the default, and appropriate here).

To remove underlining for web addresses or hyperlinks

1. Right click on the URL and select *Remove Hyperlink*.