

CITING SOURCES

Creating a Works Cited Page and Parenthetical Citations Using MLA Documentation Style

LaFayette Jr. Sr. High School Library

The goal of documenting your work is to provide your readers with enough information to be able to locate a source you used. You will want to give your readers as much information as you can in a consistent format. There are two major components to documenting your work: Parenthetical Citations and a Works Cited page. The two are linked. Parenthetical citations will refer your readers to the Works Cited page where they will find complete citations for your sources.

Works Cited Page

A Works Cited page is a list of the sources you consulted to write your paper. It contains as complete information as you can find, so your readers can **re-locate** the source if they want more information.

Parenthetical Citations (Citing Sources within your paper)

If you use someone else ideas, thoughts, or words, including paraphrases and quotations in the body of your paper, you will need to document where you got the information. Generally MLA documentation uses parenthetical citation~ after the quote but before the punctuation to end the sentence. The citations contain the author's last name and the page where you found the quote.

Below is a sample listing of Works Cited and Parenthetical Citation formats for you to refer to. The examples cover the most common print and electronic sources. If you need additional information or samples there are style handbooks available in the Library and helpful websites. **Please see Mrs. Mann if you need any additional help.**

Helpful Hints for creating Works Cited entries and Parenthetical Citations:

1. The Works Cited page begins on a new page. Center the title Works Cited one inch from the top of the page.
2. Double space between all lines on the Works Cited page.
3. Indent each line after the first line on Works Cited entries.
4. List all entries alphabetically by the author's last name. If there is no author, use the first letter of the title excluding A, An, The.
5. Parenthetical Citations contain the author and page number of quote enclosed in parenthesis.
6. Parenthetical Citations generally follow the quote but occur before the punctuation ending the sentence. **Ex. (Mann 23).**

****Below are sample MLA citations. For each category there is a Works Cited documentation sample followed by the Parenthetical Citation sample.**

BOOKS

General format for Works Cited page:

Author's Last Name, First Name. Book Title. City: Publisher, date.

General format for Parenthetical Citations:

(Author's Last Name page #).

One author:

Petroski, Henry. *To Engineer Is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design*. New York: St. Martin's, 1985.

(Petroski 174).

Two or Three Authors:

Diehl, Daniel, and Mark Donnelly. *Medieval Furniture: Plans and Instructions for Historical Reproductions*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole, 1999.

(Diehl and Donnelly 43).

More than Three Authors:

Blenky, Mary Field, et al. *Women's Ways of Knowing: The Development of Self, Voice, and Mind*. New York: Basic, 1986.

(Blenky et al. 89).

Book by a Corporate Author:

The Boston Women's Health Collective. *Our Bodies, Ourselves: A Book by and For Women*. New York: Simon, 1973.

(The Boston Women's Health Collective 27).

Anonymous Book:

Literary Market Place. *The Directory of American Book Publishing*. 1985 ed. New York: Bowker, 1984.

Shorten title using first word of source. (Literary Market Place 226).

Book with an Editor:

Hall, Donald, ed. *The Oxford Book of American Literary Anecdotes*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981.

(Hall 87).

An Anthology:

Zinsser, William, ed. *Inventing the Truth: The Art and Craft of Memoir*.
Boston: Houghton, 1987.

Zinsser 47).

A Single Work in an Anthology:

Thomas, Lewis. "A Long Line of Cells." *Inventing the Truth: The Art and Craft of Memoir*. Ed. William Zinsser. Boston: Houghton, 1987.

(Thomas 126).

An Introduction. Preface. Foreword. or an Afterword:

Bernstein, Carl. Preface. *Poison Penmanship: The Gentle Art of Muckraking*.
By Jessica Mitford. New York: Vintage-Random, 1979. iii - v.

(Bernstein iv).

[See your *Writer's Inc.*, pp. 265 - 268, for additional examples.]

PERIODICALS

Signed Article in a Magazine:

Anderson, Kelli. "Going to the Dawgs." *Sports Illustrated* 15 Nov.
1999: 116-19.

(Anderson 117).

Unsigned Article in a Magazine:

"Seven Tips About Portable Generators." *Consumer Reports* Nov. 1999: 10.

Shorten title (Seven Tips 1'0).

Article in a Scholarly Journal - Continuous Pagination:

Wu, Kelvin K.S., Ofer Lahav, and Martin J. Rees. "The Large-Scale
Smoothness of the Universe." *Nature* 397 (1999): 225-
(Wu 228).

Article in a Scholarly Journal- Page Numbers start over each issue:

Walker, Jack. "The Primary Game." *Wilson Quarterly* 12.1 (1988): 64-77.

(Walker 66).

Signed Newspaper Article:

Mullen, William. "Dinosaur Bones in Sahara Prove a Monster Find."
Chicago Tribune 12 Nov. 1999, see, 1:1+.

(Mullen 1).

Unsigned Newspaper Article:

"Toyota to Team Up with Dealer Network to Sell Cars on Web."
Wall Street Journal 12 Nov. 1999: B5.
(If you are using a local paper, include the city name in brackets.)

ELECTRONIC SOURCES:

MLA format for electronic sources contain the following BASIC items:

Author, title of article, title of source, publication information, date created, name of sponsoring institution or database (i.e. SIRS), date site was accessed, and URL for site.

Web Site (Professional):

ESPN.com. 12 Nov. 1999. ESPN Internet Ventures. 24 Nov. 1999
<<http://espn.go.com>>.

Article Within a Web Site (Authored):

Devitt, Terry. "Flying High." *The Why Files*. 9 Dec. 1999.
University of Wisconsin, Board of Regents. 4 Jan. 2000
<http://whyfiles.news.wisc.edu/shorties/kite.html>.

(Devitt 1).

Article Within a Web Site (Anonymous):

"Becoming a Meteorologist." *Weather.com*. 12 Nov. 1999
<http://weather.com/learnmore/resources/metro.html>.

Shorten title (Becoming 1).

Web site (Personal):

Hamilton, Calvin J. *Views of the Solar System*. 12 Nov. 1999
<<http://solarviews.com/eng/homepage.htm>>.

(Hamilton 2).

Informational Database (SIRS, PROQUEST, etc.):

Shelby, Holly. "Paris Louvre Goes 'Primitivem." *Baltimore Sun*. Sept. 3, 2002
Online. SIRS. (28 Oct. 2002). <<http://ars.sirs.com>>.

(Shelby 1).

MISCELLANEOUS

Published Interview:

Matthews, Dave. "Dave Matthews." By Tom Moon. *Rolling Stone* 2 Sept. 1999: 64.

(REMEMBER: if the interview is untitled, type the word *Interview* after the interviewee's name.)

If you mention the name of your interview subject in your text, no parenthetical citation IS necessary.

CD Recording:

Shocked Michelle. *Arkansas Traveler*. Polygram Records, 1992.

E-mail:

Documenting email requires the following information: Author's name, Subject line, in quotation marks, Description of message that includes recipient (e.g., *e-mail to the author*), Date of sending.

Keppinger, Eugene. "How to Cite Information from the Web." E-mail to Andrew Harnack. 10 Jan. 1999.

Personal Interview:

Pei, I. M. Personal interview. 27 July 1983.

Mann, Kenneth. Telephone Interview. 29 Oct. 2002.

Letter:

MacDonald, John D. Letter to the author. 15 Nov. 1985.

Sources:

Gibaldi, Joseph and Walter S. Achtert. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 3rd ed. The Modern Language Association of America: New York, 1988.

Harnack, Andrew and Eugene Kleppinger. *Online! A Reference Guide to Using Internet Sources*. 2001. Bedford/St. Martins. Sept. 2002
<<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/index.htm>> .

Jefferson, Jennifer and Sharon Williams. "How Do I Cite That?" *Writing at Hamilton, Hamilton College*. 2002. Trustees of Hamilton College. Sept. 2002
<<http://hamilton.edu/academics/resource/wc/MLAGuide.html>>.

Sebranek, Patrick, Dave Kemper and Verne Meyer. *Writers Inc: A Student Handbook for Writing and Learning*. Wilmington, Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.