Begin the bibliography, or more properly the “works cited” list, on a separate sheet following the text of your paper but continuing the same pagination.

Double-space the entire list.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by the author’s last name or, in the case of anonymous works, by title.

New entries begin at the left-hand margin with subsequent lines for the same entry indented one-half inch.

Italicize the titles of books, periodicals, databases, and Web sites. Use “quotation marks” for the titles of periodical articles, essays, book chapters and Web pages.

Finish the citation with the medium consulted (“Web” and “Print” are used for our examples, but “CD,” “Radio,” “Television,” and many others are possible).

This guide to citing resources in the MLA (Modern Language Association) style was adapted by librarians at the Schauerman Library, from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. (2009), and gives examples of the most commonly used citations. For further or more complete information, please consult the “Handbook,” which is kept at the Reference Desk.

Books in General

To cite books by one author


The basic work cited entry includes author, title, and publication information. Take this information from the title page of the book itself, rather than from some secondary source, such as a library catalog. Basic publication information includes the city alone, but if the city is not well known (as well known as London, Tokyo, and New York, for example), include an abbreviation for country, state, or province. Publisher information is reduced to the absolute minimum: Touchstone Press on the title page becomes Touchstone; University Press becomes UP; Vintage Books becomes Vintage. Finish the citation with the medium of publication, in this case “Print.”

By two or three authors


The lead author’s name alone is reversed for alphabetizing; second and third authors’ names revert to the normal order and are not alphabetized within the citation, but are listed in the order they appear on the title page. Unless otherwise stated, assume the book is a first edition. If a later edition is specified on the title page, include the information after the title of the book.
More than three authors

The lead author alone is identified by name; coauthors are reduced to the status “et al,” an abbreviation for the Latin “et alia,” meaning “and others.” You may, however, list all the authors in full as they appear on the title page.

Two or more books by the same author
Give the author’s name for the first publication only. For other works, type three hyphens in place of the name, followed by a period, and the title.

By a group or a corporate author

Anonymous publication
For anonymous publications, begin your citation with the title and alphabetize the work in your bibliography by title, rather than author.

Book with an author and editor or translator

Poem, short story, chapter, or other work in an anthology
In addition to the basic book publication information, include the author and title of the work cited, the editor or translator of the collection, and the inclusive pages for the work.

Government publication
If the publication is anonymous, cite the responsible government agency. If the document has an author, the citation may begin with either the author’s name or the agency.
Critical essay reprinted in a collection

To cite an essay in a collection that has been previously published elsewhere, give the earlier publication information followed by “Rpt. in” (meaning “Reprinted in”). Always cite the source you are using; do not pretend you saw the article in the original publication.

Work from a Taking Sides book
Example of an article/essay previously published; title of article/essay unchanged

Since the Taking Sides books are primarily collections of articles or essays that were originally published in other sources such as journals or books, it is necessary to indicate that an article/essay is reprinted in (“Rpt. in”) a specific Taking Sides title. Information on the original source should also be included, and it can be found usually footnoted at the beginning of the article/essay. In this case, the original title was not changed. (If the original title was changed, use the Opposing Viewpoints example below to guide you.) Add the editor(s), publication information, the page numbers of the article, medium of publication, and series title, followed by “Ser.” if “Series” is part of the name.

Work from an Opposing Viewpoints book
Example of an article/essay previously published; title of article/essay changed


The Opposing Viewpoints books, like the Taking Sides books, are primarily collections. In the example given above, the title of the previously published article changed when it was included in the Opposing Viewpoints book. In this case, first indicate the new title and publication facts, followed by “Rpt. of” (“Reprint of”), the original title, and the original publication facts.

Reference Works
An anonymous article

For standard reference works reappearing often in new editions, include only the edition and year of publication.
An article in a reference work, signed

For less familiar reference works, give complete publication information.

**Periodical Literature (Newspapers, Magazines, Scholarly Journals)**

An article in a newspaper

When citing a newspaper, give the name in italics as it appears on the masthead, omitting any introductory articles (“a,” “the”). If a local paper does not include the city of publication in its title, supply this information in brackets: for example, Daily Breeze [Torrance].

An article in a magazine

If an article continues on consecutive pages, show the range after the colon, e.g. 80-5. If a multi-page article is not printed on consecutive pages, include the first page and a plus sign, e.g. 80+.

An article in a scholarly journal

Include the journal title in italics, the volume number and issue number (if available) and year (in parentheses), a colon, and the page numbers. In our example, 67.1 is the first issue of the 67th volume.

**Documents from a Subscription Service/Database**

If you are citing a periodical article, begin the entry by citing the article as you would a newspaper, magazine, or journal entry in print. If pagination is not available, use “n. pag.” (See the ProQuest example.) Conclude your citation with these three elements: title of the database in italics, medium of publication (Web) and date of access (day, month, and year).

If you are citing a nonperiodical document, record the following information in sequence:

1. Title of the document in quotation marks
2. Title of the original publication source italicized (for example, if the nonperiodical work you are citing also appeared in print, as with an Encyclopedia Britannica entry)
3. Date of publication (if the nonperiodical work you are citing also appeared in print)
4. Title of the database italicized
5. Medium of publication (Web)
6. Date accessed (day, month, and year)

Examples of citations on the following pages are for databases available through El Camino College.
Alt HealthWatch

American History and Life with Full Text

Book Index with Reviews

Britannica Online Academic Edition

Business Source Premier

CINAHL Complete

Consumer Health Complete

CountryWatch

CQ Researcher
Credo Reference


(EBSCOhost) Academic Search Premier


(EBSCOhost) MasterFILE Premier


ERIC


Ethnic NewsWatch


Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia


Gale Literary Databases


GreenFILE


Health and Wellness Resource Center


Health Reference Center: Academic

Health Source: Consumer Edition

Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition

Issues and Controversies

JSTOR Arts and Sciences

Literature Resource Center

Literature Criticism Online

MEDLINE

Newspaper Source Plus

Opposing Viewpoints in Context
Professional Development Collection

ProQuest National Newspapers Core

Psychology and Behavioral Science Collection

Regional Business News

Religion and Philosophy Collection

Salem Literature

Science

Today’s Science

Vocational Studies Premier
WestlawNext Campus Research

Shelby County v. Holder. 133 Supreme Court Reporter 2612. Supreme Court of the US. 2013.


To cite a court case, include the name of the first plaintiff, the first defendant, the volume, name (not italicized) and page numbers of the law report cited, the name of the court that decided the case, and the year of the decision, along with the database information. (Court cases are italicized in the text of a research paper, but not in the works cited list.)

Other Web Resources

To cite a source from the Web, include as much of the following information as is available:
1. Name of the author/editor of a source such as a Web page or document, and if appropriate, followed by an abbreviation such as ed. for editor.
2. Title of the page or document in quotation marks; title of an online book or name of an entire Internet site in italics.
3. Title of the overall Web site in italics, if distinct from above.
4. Any version or edition numbers available.
5. Publisher or sponsor of site. If this is not available, use “N.p.”
6. Date of posting/publication. If nothing is available, use “n.d.”
7. Medium of publication. (Web).
8. The date of access/your visit to the site (day, month, year).
9. Include the URL in angle brackets only if the document cannot be found without it, or if your instructor requires it.

1) Basic format for a page on a Web site

Last name, first name of author. “Title of document.” Name of Web site. Name of organization associated with the site (sometimes found by clicking on a link leading to information on another page), date of posting. Medium of publication (Web). Date you accessed the site.

Example:


2) Basic format for an entire Web site

Name of the site. Editor if available. Name of organization associated with the site, date of posting. Medium of publication. Date you accessed the site.

Example:


3) Basic format for an online government publication

Name of the government. Name of government agency. Publication title. Name of the author if known, preceded by the word “By.” Date of posting. Medium of publication. Date of access.
Example:

4) Basic format for an online magazine or newspaper, not associated with a database
Author’s last name, first name. "Title of the article." Title of the overall Web site version or edition
used. Name of publisher or sponsor and date of posting. Medium. Date retrieved.

Example:

5) Basic format for an eBook
Author’s last name, first name. Title of the book. Place of publication: publisher, date of publication.
Type of electronic file, such as PDF file, ePUB file, Kindle file.

Example for all eBooks in the Library catalog:
According to the MLA Handbook, begin the entry for a work formatted for reading electronically as
you would for a comparable printed work and end it with a designation of the medium of publication.
If you cannot identify the file type, use “Digital file.”

6) Online Video including YouTube Videos
While the MLA Handbook does not specifically address how to cite a YouTube video, an editor of the
MLA Handbook provided the following guidelines.

Self-Contained Video
Director’s or producer’s or performer’s last name, first name. Title of Video. Production company
name, date produced. Name of the Web site. Web. Date retrieved.

A citation for a video that includes information such as the title, the filmmaker, etc. in the video itself
is covered in section 5.6.2d and 5.7.3 of the MLA Handbook. You may begin the citation with the
name of the film, or the director, or the producer, or even a performer, depending on what aspect of
the film you are emphasizing.

Example:
Kaku, Michio, dir. The World in 2030: How Science will Affect Computers, Medicine, Jobs, Our
Informal Video Clip

Creator’s last name, first name. “Title of Clip.” Name of the Web site. Publisher or sponsor of the site, date of posting. Web. Date retrieved.

An informal video clip made by the person who posted it may be treated as a Web page. If a video clip has no identified creator—the person who posted it did not create it—the entry would start with the title of the clip in quotation marks, but otherwise follow this same format.

Example:

7) Radio Program on the Web

Last name, first name of director or producer, “Title of Broadcast Segment.” Name of Program.

Name of Publisher or Sponsor, date of posting. Medium. Date retrieved.

Example: