A Brief Guide for Citing Sources in the MLA Style
September 2011

- 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 Douglas Thompson, Moon Ichinaga, and Claudia Striepe, 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.

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]. Include the edition, as different editions of the same issue may include different material.

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.” 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 print source italicized (if the nonperiodical work you are citing also appeared in print, for example, 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 are given below for databases available through El Camino College.

Alt HealthWatch

Britannica Online Academic Edition
Business Source Premier

CINAHL Plus with Full Text

CountryWatch
Note: The “Country Review” documents were originally published in print so “CountryWatch 2005” in the above example refers to the print version. It is followed by “CountryWatch ” as the title of the database.

CQ Researcher

(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

Newspaper Source

Professional Development Collection

ProQuest National Newspapers Core

Psychology and Behavioral Science Collection
Regional Business News

Religion and Philosophy Collection

Science Online

Today’s Science

Vocational and Career Collection

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 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:
27 May 2009.

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 eBook accessed from the El Camino College Library Catalog
Author’s last name, first name. Title of the book. Place of publication: publisher, date of publication.
Source of eBook. Medium of publication. Date of access.

Example:
9 Sept. 2011.

At the present time, all eBooks accessed from the Library’s Catalog are purchased from the eBooks
on EBSCOhost collection.