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The Modern Language Association's Rules for the "Works Cited" Page

Learning citation rules can be hard. While the below examples do not cover every problem, they provide a sense of how to use the MLA's rules to develop a proper citation.

If you want to use the actual book that describes these rules, copies of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. (2003) are located behind the reference desk at **Ref BF LB 2369 .G53 2003**. The numbers to the right of each kind of information source listed below (Books, for example) are the outline points in the MLA Handbook to consult for further information on the topic.

One website that will help you with the rules is:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html

The below forms describe the basic parts of MLA citations. The examples are based on citations from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. (2003). Observe the capitalization, punctuation, spacing, and order of the citation's parts as you cite the sources you use in your paper. Use the **Style** and **Example** citations in conjunction with each other to develop good citations.

Read the notes on page 4 of this handout for additional help about MLA style.

Books: **[5.6.1.—5.6.6.]**

Style:

Author, Alan Adam, Jr., Bea Belle Writer, and Cece Cate Researcher. Title of Work.

Edition if mentioned. Location: Publisher, Year.

Examples:

Australian Bureau of Statistics. Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in

Statistical Local Areas, New South Wales: June 1990. No. 3209.1. Canberra,

Australian Capital Territory: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1991.

Mitchell, Terri Rae, and Joel Randall Larson, Jr. People in Organizations: An Introduction to Organizational Behavior. 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1987.

Parts of Books:**[5.6.7. & 5.6.8.]****Style:**

Author, Alan Adam, Jr., and Bea Belle Writer. "Book Part's Title." Title of Book. Edition if mentioned. Volume if mentioned. Ed. Ali Editor, Betty Editor, and Camille Editor.
Location: Publisher, Year. Page #-Page #.

Example:

Macoby, Ellie Eve. "Socialization in the Family." Handbook of Psychology. 4th ed. Vol. 4.
Ed. Pamela Mussen. New York: Wiley, 1983. 1-101.

Journal Articles:**[5.7.2. & 5.7.3.]****Style:**

Author, Alan Adam, Jr., Bea Belle Writer, and Cece Cate Researcher. "Title of Article."
Title of Periodical Vol. #.Issue # (Year): Page #-Page #.

Examples:

Klimoski, Rose, and Sean Palmer. "The ADA and the Hiring Process in Organizations."
Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research 45.2 (1993): 10-36.

Saywitz, Karl John, Alfred Paul Mannarino, Lois Berliner, and Jane Ann Cohen.

"Treatment for Abused Children." American Psychologist 55 (2000): 1040-1049.

Magazine Articles:**[5.7.6.]****Style:**

Author, Alan Adam, Jr., Bea Belle Writer, and Cece Cate Researcher. "Title of Article."
Title of Periodical Day Month Year: Page #-Page #.

Example:

Mehta, Pratap Bhanu. "Exploding Myths." New Republic 6 June 1998: 17-19.

Newspaper Articles:**[5.7.5.]****Style:**

Author, Alan Adam, Jr., Bea Belle Writer, and Cece Cate Researcher. "Title of Article."
Title of Newspaper Day Month Year, edition, section: Page #-Page #.

Example:

Hennenberger, Melinda. "The Leonardo Cover-Up." New York Times 21 Apr. 2002, late ed., sec. 6: 42+.

Periodical Articles on the Internet: **[5.9.4.]**

Style:

Author, Alan Adam, Jr., Bea Belle Writer, and Cece Cate Researcher. "Title of Article."

Title of Periodical Vol. # (Year): Page #-Page #. Retrieval Day Month Year <URL>.

Example:

Crow, Terri Jo. "Did Homo Sapiens Speciate on the Y Chromosome?" Psychology 11

(2000): 1-11. 25 Mar. 2001 <ftp://ftp.princeton.edu/harnad/Psychology/

2000.volume.11/ psyc.00.11.001.language-sex-chromosomes.1.crow>.

Periodical Articles from a Database: **[5.9.7.]**

Style:

Author, Alan Adam, Jr., Bea Belle Writer, and Cece Cate Researcher. "Title of Article."

Title of Periodical Vol. # (Year): Page #-Page #. Database. Service Provider.

Subscriber, Subscriber's Location If Little Known. Retrieval Day Month Year

<URL>.

Example:

Vanden, Gina, Susan Knapp, and John Doe. "Role of Television in Selection." Journal of

Bibliography 5 (2001): 117-123. Academic Search Premier. EBSCOhost. Weld

County Pub. Lib., Greeley, CO. 17 Nov. 2003 <http://www.epnet.com/>.

Documents on the Internet: **[5.9.1.]**

Style:

Author, Alan Adam, Jr., Bea Belle Writer, and Cece Cate Researcher. "Title of Webpage."

Title of Website. Date of Electronic Publication. Sponsoring Organization. Retrieval

Day Month Year <URL>.

Example:

Benton Foundation. "Barriers to Closing the Gap." Losing Ground: Low-Income Families.

1998. Benton Foundation. 18 Aug. 2001 <http://benton.org/Low-Income.html>.

Interviews **[5.8.7.]**

Style:

Interviewee, Iva Ida. Type of interview. Day Month Year.

Examples:

Lansbury, Angela. Personal interview. 10 Oct. 2004.

Poussaint, Alvin F. Telephone interview. 10 Dec. 2004.

Style:

Author, Alan Adam, Jr. "Title from Subject Line, if any." E-mail to Rick Recipient.

Day Month Year.

Examples:

Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." E-mail to Daniel J. Cahill. 21 June 1997.

Harner, James L. E-mail to the author. 20 Aug. 2002.

Notes:

Format:

All citations should be double-spaced, both within each citation and between citations.

Second and subsequent lines of a citation should be indented either one-half inch (½") or five spaces in from the first line.

Authors:

Note how the first author is listed last name first, and then followed by the rest of his or her name. The other authors have their name listed with their personal name first followed by the rest of the name. Put any suffixes (Jr., III, etc.) at the end of their name.

List up to three authors on the bibliographic citation. If there are more than three authors, put "et al." after the first one and don't list the others.

Publication Dates:

List the publication date for the **edition** of a resource used. Don't list the printing number.

Titles:

Some words in a title and subtitle are capitalized while others aren't. **Always capitalize** the first and last words of titles and subtitles, as well as all nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and subordinating conjunctions (such as *although*, *as soon as*, *while*). Unless they are the first or last words in titles or subtitles, **don't capitalize** articles, prepositions, the **to** in an infinitive (How **to** Dance), and coordinating conjunctions (such as **and**, **or**, **but**).

Volume and Issue Numbers:

If the first issue of a journal volume begins with page 1 and every subsequent issue picks up the page numbering where the last issue ended, don't put the issue number after the volume number. If the pages of each issue start again at page 1, then list the issue number after the volume number with a period (.) separating the two numbers.

Locations:

If the location is well-known (like Denver), don't list the state or nation. If it is not well-known (like Greeley), then list the state (if published in the U.S.) or the nation (like U.K.).

Page Numbers:

The "+" used in the newspaper article citation indicates that the article continues on pages that don't follow consecutively with the first page of the article. This is also used with periodical articles where the pages the article is on are not consecutive.