How to Document Sources in MLA Style

The Modern Language Association (MLA) Style is widely used for identifying research sources. In MLA style you briefly credit sources with Parenthetical References in the text of your paper and give the complete description of each source used in your paper in the list of Works Cited. The instructor for your class is the final authority on how to format your References List.


PREPARING THE LIST OF WORKS CITED

Works Cited items are listed at the end of the research paper, arranged alphabetically by author’s last name, or when there is no author, by the first word of the title (except A, An or The).

PRINT SOURCES

BOOKS [5.5.1]

Author. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Medium.

• This is the basic format for a book.
• The author’s name should be written: Last Name, First Name.
• In a title or a subtitle, capitalize the first word, the last word, and all principal words, including those that follow hyphens in compound terms: The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination.
• Shorten the publisher’s name, following the guidelines in [7.5] of the Handbook. Omit articles (A, An, The), business abbreviations (Co., Corp., Inc., Ltd.), and Books, House, Press, Publishers. Use “UP” for university press, e.g., Ohio State UP. If the publisher’s name includes the name of one person (Harry N. Abrams), cite the last name alone (Abrams). If the publisher’s name is commonly abbreviated with capital initial letters, use the abbreviation as the publisher’s name: MLA (for Modern Language Association).
• Publication medium (Print)

One Author [5.5.2]


One Editor or Compiler [5.5.3]

• If the person named on the title page is the editor or compiler, rather than the author, add a comma then the abbreviation “ed.” or “comp.”

Two or More Authors [5.5.4]
- List the names in the order they appear on the title page.
- Only the first author’s name should be reversed: Last Name, First Name.
- Use a comma between the authors’ names. Place a period after the last author’s name.
- If there are more than three authors, name only the first and add et al., or give all the names.


More than Three Authors [5.5.4]
- If there are more than three authors, name only the first and add et al., or give all the names.


Or


Editors or Compilers [5.5.4]
- If there are two or more editors or compilers, add a comma after the final name, then the abbreviation “eds.” or “comps.”


Second or Other Edition [5.5.13]

Author. *Title of Book*. Edition. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Medium.

- If an edition is given, specify it by number (2nd ed.), name (Rev. ed.) or year (2004 ed.).


Corporate Author [5.5.5]
- Cite a book by corporate author when a group, such as an organization or association rather than individual person, is the author.

Government Agency as Author [5.5.20]
• Give the name of the government first, then the name of the agency.


ESSAY, POEM, or SHORT STORY in an ANTHOLOGY [5.5.6]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author of Story. “Title of Story.” <em>Title of Book</em>. Name of Editor. Edition (if given). City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Page(s). Medium.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Purcell, Arthur H. “Better Waste Management Strategies Are Needed to Avert a Garbage Crisis.”


Tufts, Carol Strongin. “Recasting *A Doll House*: Narcissism as Character Motivation in Ibsen’s Play.”


ENCYCLOPEDIAS and REFERENCE BOOKS [5.5.7]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author of Article (if given). “Article Title.” <em>Title of Book</em>. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Medium.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

• When citing familiar reference books, especially those that often appear in new editions, full publication information is not necessary.
• Give the edition (if available) and the year of publication.
• If articles are arranged alphabetically, volume and page numbers are not necessary.


• When citing less familiar reference books, give full publication information. Give the number of volumes for multi-volume sets. [5.5.14]

Author. “Title of Article.” *Title of Magazine* Date: Page(s). Medium.

- Abbreviate the months (except May, June, July). Give complete dates for magazines issued every week or every two weeks, written in this order: Day Month Year, e.g., 15 Jan. 2000.
- If the article is on consecutive pages, specify the page numbers of the entire article, e.g., 16-20. Give just the last two digits of the second number, when possible, e.g., 188-89, but 196-200.
- If the article is not on consecutive pages—i.e., it begins on page 27, then skips to page 30, and continues on page 32—write only the first page number, followed by a plus sign: 27+.
- Do not give volume and issue numbers for magazine articles even if they are listed.
- Medium


No Author Given [5.7.9]
- If no author’s name is given, begin with the title of the article.

“Five Years after 9/11: A Little Safer, No Surer.” *Aviation Week and Space Technology*


**SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES [5.4.2]**

**Journal with Volume [5.4.2]**


**Journal with Issues [5.4.3]**


- Give both the volume and issue numbers, separated by a period, e.g., volume 12, no. 8 = 12.8

Tarrant County College (TCC) Libraries subscribe to databases of full-text articles that can be accessed through the Internet. Works Cited entries for these articles should include information about the original print publication (see above), and information about the online subscription service.

**Magazine**

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Author. “Title of Article.” Title of Magazine Date: Page(s). Name of Database. Web. Date of Access.
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**Journal**

```
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**Newspaper Article**

```
Author. “Title of Article.” Name of Newspaper Date: Page(s). Name of Database. Web. Date of Access.
```


**Reference Book**

```
“Title of Article.” Name of Reference Book. Publisher, Date. Name of Database. Web. Date of Access.
```


**Ebook - Copyrighted Title**

```
Author. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Date. Name of Database. Web. Date of Access.
```

WEB SITES

Complete publication information may not be available for a Web site; provide what is given.

**Entire Internet Site: Scholarly Project or Professional Site [5.6.2]**

*Title of the Site.* Editor. Date and/or Version Number. *Name of Sponsoring Institution.* Medium. Date of Access.


**Document from a Web Site [5.6.2]**

Author. “Title of Web Page.” *Title of the Site.* Editor. Date and/or Version Number. *Name of Sponsoring Institution.* Medium. Date of Access.


**Photograph from a Web Site [5.6.2]**

Author (if known). *Title of Photograph.* Date. *Name of Website.* Medium. Date of Access.


**ARTICLES IN ONLINE PERIODICALS [5.6.3]**

Author. “Title of Article.” *Title of Publication* Date: Page(s) or Section(s), if numbered. Medium. Date of Access.


**VIDEO RECORDINGS [5.7.3]**

*Title.* Director, Producer, and/or Writer. Medium. Distributor, Year.

TELEVISION OR RADIO PROGRAM [5.7.1]

“Title of Episode or Segment.” Title of Program or Series. Name of Network. Call Letters (if any), City of Local Station (if any). Broadcast Date. Medium.


INTERVIEWS [5.7.7]

Interview Conducted by the Researcher

Person Interviewed. Type of Interview (personal, telephone, email, etc.). Date.


Broadcast Interview

• Add information for the television or radio broadcast.

In most cases, the Parenthetical References include the author’s last name and the specific page number for the information cited [6.1].

For example:

In the text of paper:
Medieval Europe was a place both of “raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion” and of “traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns if not cities, and active markets in grain” (Townsend 10).

In Works Cited list:

Author’s Name in Text [6.3]
• When you use the author’s name in your text in citing a reference, give only the page number.

  Magny develops this argument (67-69).

Author’s Name in Parenthetical Reference [6.3]
• When the author’s name is not in your text, add the author’s last name in parentheses.

  This argument has been developed (Magny 67-69).

No Author’s Name [6.4.4]
• If no author’s name is given, abbreviate the title and add the page number. Example: Page 33 of the book *Other Pole of Human Mind* is cited as:

  *(Other Pole 33)*

Two or More Authors [6.2]
• If the source has two or three authors, include all last names.

  (Gibson and Stabler 727)
  (Sumner, Reichl, and Waugh 23).

• If the source has more than three authors, include the first author, followed by et al.

  (Leikin et al. 67)

Corporate Author [6.4.5]
• Use the same format, but include the corporate body.

  *(Modern Language Association 77)*
More Than One Work by the Same Author [6.4.6]  
• Abbreviate the title. For example, if you use two sources by Shakespeare, *Comedy of Errors* and *Ages of Man*, then you will include the following:

(Shakespeare, *Comedy* 54)  
(Shakespeare, *Ages* 25)  

• If you state the author’s name in the text, give only the title and page number in parentheses:

(Comedy 54)

Multivolume Works [6.4.3]  
• When citing a volume number and a page reference, separate the two by a colon and a space. Omit the words volume and page or their abbreviations.

(Henderson 3: 52)  
(Wellek 2: 1-10)  

• When referring to an entire volume, use only volume number. Place a comma after the author’s name and include the abbreviation “vol.”.

(Henderson, vol. 3)  

• In text reference to an entire volume:

In volume 3, Henderson suggests …

More Than One Work in Parenthetical Reference [6.4.9]  
• Cite each work as you would in a reference and use semicolons to separate the citations.

This controversy has been addressed more than once (Dabundo 27; Magny 69).

Electronic and Online Sources [6.4.2]  
• Cite them just like print sources. If an online source lacks numbering, omit numbers. If a source includes fixed page numbers or section numbering, such as numbering paragraphs (pars.), screens (screens) or chapters (ch.), cite the relevant numbers.

The semiconductor workplace is highly toxic (Ross par. 35).  

Beethoven has been called the “first politically motivated composer,” for he was “caught up in the whole ferment of ideas that came out of the French Revolution” (Gardiner screens 2-3).  

“Once we start using a tool extensively, it also starts using us” (Rawlins ch. 1, sec. 1).