

Citing References MLA Style

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Libraries

Adapted guidelines from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 2009

MLA In-Text References

Are humans the only creatures with the ability to talk? Some scientists will argue yes; others will point at the behavior of birds and dolphins, for instance, and argue that they have the ability to communicate. Certainly, some pets and circus animals have a remarkable ability to “understand” a trainer’s command. Also, as Griffin’s studies have shown, bees can tell fellow members of the hive the location of good sources of food (4). Some of the most interesting studies have been done with primates in an attempt to teach them sign language. Allen and Beatrice Gardner have spent the last ten years attempting to teach a female chimpanzee, Washoe, to communicate. According to their studies, Washoe has a vocabulary of 150 words (Peterson 97).

To make your paper smoother, try to incorporate the author’s name into the text when possible. When you do this, all you need to place in parentheses is the page number.

The MLA style incorporates the reference information into the text and does away with a footnote or endnote page. Note that the period that ends the sentence is after the parentheses and that you **do not** need a comma to separate the author’s last name from the page number.

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).

A reference directly after a quotation follows the closing quotation mark.

If a quotation extends to more than four lines, indent one inch and double space it without using quotation marks.
See p. 94 - MLA Handbook.

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is commonly regarded as one of the great American novels.

Italicize the names of books & journals, etc. in the text of your paper.
See 3.6.2 for a complete list of items that should be italicized.

Always remember, it’s not just direct quotes that need references; all information needs its sources identified!

MLA Format – Print Sources

Double-space all lines on actual reference page. Indent 2nd & 3rd lines.

Book, journal, magazine & newspaper titles are italicized & every important word of the title is capitalized.

Add **Print.** at the end of each citation.

Article titles should be in quotation marks.

You may go to the MLA Web site for current information: www.mla.org

Check at the Reference Desk at either library to borrow the MLA Handbook.

Book with one author:

Truss, Lynne. *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. New York: Gotham, 2004. Print.

Book with more than one author:

Bartol, Curt R., and Anne M. Bartol. *Juvenile Delinquency and Antisocial Behavior: A Developmental Perspective*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009. Print.

Encyclopedia:

"Siberia." *The New Encyclopedia Britannica: Micropaedia*. 2007 ed. Print.

Reference Book, collection:

Cramer, Carmen. "The Americanization of Leo Finkle." *Cuyahoga Review* 22 (1983): 89-90. Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Christopher Giroux. Vol. 85. Detroit: Gale, 1995. 394-96. Print.

Edited or compiled or translated Book:

Weisser, Susan Ostrov, ed. *Women and Romance: A Reader*. New York: New York UP, 2001. Print.

CultureGrams: Multivolume work:

"Japan." *CultureGrams: World Edition*. Vol.1. Provo, Utah: ProQuest-CSA, 2007. Print. ("...you need give only page numbers when you refer to that work in the text" of the paper.) When using two or more volumes of a work, cite the total number of volumes. If using only one volume state the number of that volume in the entry.

Articles: (daily, weekly, or monthly publication, issues paginated separately): don't give vol. or issue #s; give the range of consecutive pages.

Kosowski, Frank. "Cheese." *Scientific American* May 1985: 45+. Print. (+ indicates more pages later in the issue.)

Journal, continuous pagination (scholarly): list issue # if given.

Mills, Ken. "Learning the Test." *College English* 48 (1986): 24-28. Print.

Article, no author:

"Pork Expert Fined \$1,000 for Smuggling Hog Diseases." *New York Times* 2 May 1985: A11. Print. (The "A" in A11 is the section number.)

Essay, in an anthology:

Woods, Al. "College Athletes Should be Paid." *Sports and Athletes*. Ed. Christine Watkins. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2009. 87-94. Print. Opposing Viewpoints Ser.

MLA STYLE – Citing Electronic Sources

- Add **Web.** right before the date of access.
- Use urls only if the reader cannot locate the source without it or if your instructor requires it.
- Use N.p. if publisher or sponsor of site is unavailable.
- Use n.d. when the date of publication is unavailable.
- Italicize title of the overall web site.
- Title of the work is in quotation marks if part of a larger work or italicized if independent.
- Home page or Course home page comes before the title (if there is one) of that page.

Personal Home Page:

Lancashire, Ian. Home page. 28 Mar. 2002. Web. 15 May 2002. (First date is date of last update, if not given, enter n.d. Second date is date of access.)

Magazines and Newspapers from a Library Subscription Service (ProQuest, InfoTrac, etc.)

Author's Last Name, First Name and Initial. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine* Day Month Year: Page Range (if not known insert n. pag.). *Database Name*. Web. Day Month Year (of access).

Examples:

Schaefer, Bradley E. "Meteors That Changed the World." *Sky and Telescope* Dec. 1998: 68-75. *ProQuest*. Web. 29 Oct. 1999.

Hawkins, Beth L. "Idealism with a Business Edge." *Facilities Design & Management* May 2002: 32+. *InfoTrac OneFile*. Web. 18 Apr. 2005.

"Japan." *Culture Briefings*. Geo Travel Research Center. Web. 28 May 2009.

Rothman, David J. "Commerce in Organs Has Led to Human Rights Violations." *Medical Ethics*. Ed. James D. Torr. San Diego: Greenhaven, 2000. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 21 April 2005.

Scholarly Journals from a Library Subscription Service (ProQuest, InfoTrac, etc.)

Author's Last Name, First Name and Initial. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume Number. Issue Number (Year): Page Range (if not known insert n. pag.). *Database Name*. Web. Day Month Year (of access).

Example:

Onwuemene, Michael C. "Limits of Transliteration: Nigerian Writers' Endeavors toward a National Literary Language." *PMLA* 114.5 (1999): 1055-66. *ProQuest*. Web. 3 Dec. 1999.

Newspaper and Newswire Articles

Author's Last Name, First Name and Initial. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper*. Publisher or Sponsor of the site, Day Month Year (of publication). Web. Day Month Year (of access).

Example:

Biersdorfer, J. D. "Religion Finds Technology." *New York Times*. New York Times, 16 May 2002. Web. 20 May 2002.

Online Book (E-Book)

Author's Last Name, First Name and Initial. *Title of book*. Edition used. Number(s) of volume(s) used. City of publication: Publisher, year of publication. *Title of database or website*. Web. Day Month Year (of access).

Example:

Lathrop, Ann and Kathleen Foss. *Student Cheating and Plagiarism in the Internet Era*. Englewood: Libraries Unlimited, 2000. *NetLibrary*. Web. 30 April 2009.

E-Journal

Levy, Steven. "Great Minds, Great Ideas." *Newsweek*. 27 May 2002. Web. 20 May 2009.

magazine

Clarke, Tom. "Polio's Last Stand." *Nature* 409 (2001): 278-280. Web. 21 April 2005.

journal

An Entire Internet Site

The Official Site of the Jazz Legend: Duke Ellington. Estates of Mercer K. Ellington and Edward K. "Duke" Ellington. 2008. Web. 3 June 2009.
(Date is date of access.)

A Blog (See 5.6.2.b. in the MLA Handbook)

Sinkevics, John. "The Weekend List: Mustard Plug, The Hard Lessons, Reverend Horton Heat and Saugatuck's Waterfront Film Festival." *Sound Check*. Michigan Live, 11 June 2009. Web. 12 June 2009.

Check with your instructors about adding any details they may want you to include in your citations!