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).

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).

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

The Duke Ellington Orchestra played at a Harlem subway station according to The Official Site of the Jazz Legend: Duke Ellington.

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.

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.

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!

Refer to a website (italicized) in the text of your paper using the first item that appears in your Works Cited entry.
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

Add specific page numbers in your in-text citation: (Truss 27)

Book with more than one author

Encyclopedia
Full publication information is not needed for well-known encyclopedias or reference books; add edition if given.


Reference Book, collection

Edited or compiled or translated Book

Multivolume works
*Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*

*CultureGrams*
“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.

If using more than one volume, put total number of volumes right before the publication city: 5 vols. Add page numbers prior to the word Print. only if the articles or sections are not in alphabetical order or if you used only part of an article.

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


Journal, continuous pagination (scholarly) list issue # if given: 48.1 refers to volume 48 issue 1

Mills, Ken. “Learning the Test.” *College English* 48 (1986): 24-28. Print. (In this example there is no issue number given.)

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 of the newspaper.)

Essay, in an anthology
**MLA STYLE – Citing Electronic Sources**

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

Add **Web.** right before the date of access.

Use url's only if the reader cannot locate the source without it or if your instructor requires it. Add these in <angle brackets> following the date of access.

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 and names of databases.

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.

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**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.)

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**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:


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**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:


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**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).

Examples:


PDF article from Kalamazoo Gazette posted on MLive.com:


Don't include the name of the newspaper if it’s a real time web posting (has time of day listed), since we don't know if it appeared in the paper:


No need to cite a reader's posted comment on the article above on your Works Cited page; mention the poster in the text of your paper, like this:

VanOchten's article is followed by this comment by GeauxLionsWin: “If Clay Matthews had been taken with the 20th pick, we wouldn't be having this discussion, now would we?”
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:

E-Journal


An Entire Internet Site


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


Encyclopedia article on CD-ROM (See 5.7.17 in the MLA Handbook)


Encyclopedia article from Wikipedia (See 5.6.2.b in the MLA Handbook)


Constitution of the United States

Familiar historical documents like the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence may be cited in a parenthetical reference (in-text) and don’t need to be included in the Works Cited list.

…in the Declaration of Independence (US 1776).  
…in the U.S. Constitution (amend. V) or (US Const., art. 2, sec. 4, cl.3)

When citing a web page that includes the Constitution or has information about the Constitution, cite the web page.


An entry for the U. S. Code may be included in the Works Cited list and in parenthetical references.


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