



Citing Sources Used MLA Style

Citing Other Sources

Government publication

Treat the government agency as the author, giving the name of the government followed by the name of the agency.

- United States. Bureau of the Census. *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. ed. Washington: GPO, 1997. Print.

Pamphlet

Cite a pamphlet as you would a book.

- United States. Dept. of the Interior. Natl. Park Service. *National Design Competition for an Indian Memorial: Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument*. Washington: GPO, 1996. Print.

Published dissertation

Cite a published dissertation as you would a book, underlining (or italicizing) the title and giving the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. After the title, add the word "Diss.," the name of the institution, and the year the dissertation was written.

- Damberg. *Workers in Small Firms*. Diss. Rand Graduate School, 1995. Santa Monica: Rand Cheryl L. *Healthcare Reform: Distributional Consequences of an Employer Mandate for*, 1996. Print.

Published proceedings of a conference

Cite published conference proceedings as you would a book, adding information about the conference after the title.

- *Chattel, Servant, or Citizen: Women's Status in the Church, State, and Sockily*. Proc. of Irish Conf. of Historians, 1993. Belfast: Inst. of Irish Studies, 1995. Print.

Work of art

Cite the artist's name, followed by the title of the artwork, usually underlined, and the institution and city in which the artwork can be found.

- Constable, John. *Dedham Vale*. Victoria and Albert Museum. London.

Musical composition

Cite the composer's name, followed by the title of the work. Underline the title of an opera, a ballet, or a composition identified by name, but do not underline or use quotation marks around a composition identified by number or form.

- Copland, Aaron. *Appalachian Spring*. Shostakovich, Dmitri. Quartet no. 1 in C, op. 49. CD.

Personal letter

To cite a letter you have received, begin with the writer's name and add the phrase "Letter to the author," followed by the date.

- Cipriani, Karen. Letter to the author. 25 Apr. 1998. Print.

Lecture or public address

Cite the speaker's name, followed by the title of the lecture (if any) in quotation marks, the organization sponsoring the lecture, the location, and the date.

- Middleton, Frank. "Louis Hayden and the Role of the Underground Railroad in Boston." Boston Public Library, Boston. 6 Feb. 1998.

Personal interview

To cite an interview that you conducted, begin with the name of the person interviewed. Then write "Personal interview," followed by the date of the interview.

- Meeker, Dolores. Personal interview. 21 Apr. 1998.

Film or videotape

Begin with the title. For a film, cite the director and the lead actors or narrator ("Perf." or "Narr."), followed by the distributor and year. For a videotape, add the word "Videocassette" at the end of the citation.

The English Patient. Dir. Anthony Minghella. Perf. Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche, Willem Dafoe, and Kirsten Scott Thomas. Miramax, 1996. Videocassette.

Radio or television program

List the relevant information about the program in this order: the title of the program, underlined or italicized; the writer ("By"), director ("Dir."), narrator ("Narr."), producer ("Prod."), or main actors ("Perf."), if relevant; the series, neither underlined nor in quotation marks; the network; the local station (if any) on which you heard or saw the program and the city; and the date the program was broadcast. If a television episode or radio segment has a title, place that title, in quotation marks, before the program title.

- “The New Face of Africa.” *The Connection*. Host Christopher Lydon. Natl. Public Radio. WBUR, Boston. 27 Mar. 1998. Radio.

Live performance of a play

Begin with the title of the play, followed by the author (“By”). Then include specific information about the live performance- the director (“Dir.”), the major actors (“Perf.”), the theater company, the theater and its location, and the date of the performance.

- *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. By Luigi Pirandello. Dir. Robert Brunsrein. Perf. Jeremy Geidt, David Ackroyd, Monica Koskey, and Marianne Owen. American Repertory Theatre, Cambridge. 14 Jan. 1997.

Sound recording

Begin with the composer (or author, if the recording is spoken), followed by the title of the piece. Next list pertinent artists (such as performers, readers, or musicians) and the orchestra and conductor. End with the manufacturer and the date. Indicate the medium (such as “Audiocassette”) after the citation, followed by a period. Do not underline or italicize the name of the medium or enclose it in quotation marks.

- Bizet, Georges. *Carmen*. Perf. Jennifer Larmore, Thomas Moser, Angela Gheorghiu, and Samuel Ramey. Bavarian State Orch. and Chorus. Cond. Giuseppe Sinopoli. Warner, 1996. Audiocassette.

Legal references

The citation of legal documents and law cases may be complicated. In general, do not underline or enclose in quotation marks laws, acts, and similar documents in either the text or the list of works cited. Names of law cases are both abbreviated and shortened, but the first important word of each party is always spelled out. In citing a case, include, in addition to the names of the first plaintiff and the first defendant, the volume, name (not underlined), and page (in that order) of the law report cited; the name of the court that decided the case; and the year in which it was decided.

- 15 US Code. Sec. 78j(b). 1964. US Const. Art. 1, sec. 1 *Stevens v. National Broadcasting Co.* 148 USPQ 755. CA Super. Ct. 1966. Print.

Citing Books in MLA

For most books, arrange information into three units, each followed by a period and one space:

1. the author's last name, first name
2. the title and subtitle, underlined or italicized
3. the place of publication, the publisher, and the date
4. the medium: print.

Book by one author

- Tompkins, Jane. *West of Everything: The Inner Life of Westerns*. New York: Oxford UP, 1992. Print.

Book by two or three authors

Name the authors in order in which they are presented on the title page. Reverse the name of only the first author.

- Rico, Barbara, and Sandra Mano. *American Mosaic: Multicultural Readings in Context*. Boston: Houghton, 1991. Print.

Books with four or more authors

Cite only the first author whose name is listed last name and then first name followed by “et al.” (Latin for “and others”).

- Medhurst, Martin J., et al. *Cold War Rhetoric: Strategy, Metaphor, and Ideology*. New York: Greenwood, 1990. Print.

Editors

After the name or names, use the abbreviation “ed.” for “editor” or “eds.” for “editors.”

- Anaya, Rodolfo, and Francisco Lomeli, eds. *Aztlan: Essays on the Chicano and Homeland*. Albuquerque: Academia-El Norte, 1989. Print.

Unknown author

Begin with the title, since there is no author. Alphabetize the entry by the first word of the title other than a, an, or the.

- *The Times Atlas of the World*. 9th ed. New York: Times, 1992. Print.

Author with an editor

Begin with the author and title, followed by the name of the editor. In this case the abbreviation “Ed.” means “Edited by,” so it is the same for one of multiple editors.

- Wells, Ida B. *The Memphis Diary*. Ed. Miriam DeCosta-Willis. Boston: Beacon, 1995. Print.

Translation

List the entry under the name of the author, not the translator. After the title, write “Trans.” (for “Translated by”) and the name of the translator.

- Mahfouz, Naguib. *Arabian Nights and D's*. Trans. Denys Johnson-Davies. New York: Doubleday, 1995. Print.

Corporate author

List the entry under the name of the corporate author, even if it is also the name of the publisher.

- Bank of Boston. *Bank by Remote Control*. Boston: Bank of Boston, 1997. Print.

Two or more works by the same author

If your list of works cited includes two or more works by the same author, use the author's name only for the first entry. For the subsequent entries use three hyphens followed by a period. The three hyphens must stand for exactly the same name or names as in the preceding entry. List the titles in alphabetical order.

- Atwood, Margaret. *Alias Grace: A Novel*. New York: Doubleday, 1996. ---. *The Robber Bride*. New York: Doubleday, 1993. Print.

Encyclopedia or dictionary

Articles in well-known dictionaries and encyclopedias are handled in abbreviated form. Simply list the author of the article (if there is one), the title of the article, the title of the reference work, the edition number, if any, and the date of the edition.

- "Sonata." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 15th ed. 1997. Print.

Volume and page numbers are not necessary because the entries are in alphabetical order and therefore are easy to locate. If a reference work is not well known, provide full publishing information as well.

Work in an anthology

Present the information in this order, with each item followed by a period: author of the selection; title of the selection; title of the anthology; editor of the anthology, preceded by "Ed." (meaning "Edited by"); city, publisher, and date; page numbers on which the selection appears.

- Malouf, David. "The Kyogle Line." *The Oxford Book of Travel Stories*. Ed. Patricia Craig. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1996. 390-96. print.

Citing Articles in Periodicals with MLA

The main parts of a periodical source are author, title of article, and publication information which can include the title of the periodical, the volume year, the year of publication, and inclusive page numbers.

Article in a monthly magazine

In addition to the author, the title of the article, and the title of the magazine, list the month and year and the page numbers on which the article appears. Abbreviate the names of months except May, June, and July.

- Lukacs, John. "The End of the Twentieth Century." *Harper's* Jan. 1993: 39-58. Print.

Article in a weekly magazine

Handle articles in weekly (or biweekly) magazines as you do those for monthly magazines, but give the exact date of the issue, not just the month and year.

- Pierpont, Claudia Roth. "A Society of One: Zora Neale Hurston, American Contrarian." *New Yorker* 17 Feb. 1997: 80-86. Print.

Unsigned article in a newspaper or magazine

Use the same form you would use for an article in a newspaper or a weekly or monthly magazine, but begin with the title of the article.

- "Marines Charged in Assault Case." *Houston Chronicle* 14 Feb. 1998: B6. Print.

Letter to the editor

Cite the writer's name, followed by the word "Letter" and the publication information for the newspaper or magazine in which the letter appears.

- Peters, Tom. Letter. *New Yorker* 16 Feb. 1998: 13. Print.

Article in a journal paginated by volume

Many professional journals continue page numbers throughout the year instead of beginning each issue with page 1. At the end of the year, all of the issues are collected in a volume. Interested readers need only the volume number, the year, and the page numbers to find a particular article.

- Segal, Gabriel. "Seeing What is Not There." *Philosophical Review* 98 (1989): 189-214. Print.

Article in a journal paginated by issue

If each issue of the journal begins with page 1, you need to indicate the number of the issue. Simply place a period after the number of the volume, followed by the number of the issue

- Johnson, G. J. "A Distinctiveness Model of Serial Learning." *Psychological Review* 98.2 (1991): 204-17. Print.

Article in a daily newspaper

Begin with the author, if there is one, followed by the title of the article. Next give the name of the newspaper, the date, the section letter or number, and the page number.

- Sun, Lena H. "Chinese Feel the Strain of a New Society." *Washington Post* 13 June 1993: A1+. Print.

Citing MLA Online Material

World Wide Website

For citing an entire website, begin with (1) the name of the author or corporate author (if known) and (2) the title of the site, underlined. Then give (3) the names of any editors, (5) the name of any sponsoring organization, (6) The date published or last update, (7) Medium of publication: web (8) The date of access. Provide as much of this information as possible.

Peterson, Susan Lynn. *The Life of Martin Luther*. 1999. Web. 13 April 2013.

Margaret Sanger Papers Project. New York U, 18 Oct. 2000. Web. 3 Apr. 2013.

For citing a shorter work within a website (articles, poems, and other documents that are not book length) include as many of the following elements as apply and as are available: (1) author's name; (2) title of the short work, in quotation marks; (3) title of the site, italicized; (4) sponsor of the website (5) date of publication or last update; (6) Medium of publication: web (7) date you accessed the source

Shiva, Vandana. "Bioethics: A Third World Issue." *NativeWeb*. 15 Sept. 2001. Web. 13 April 2013.

Online Scholarly Project or Reference Database

For an online source accessed from within a larger scholarly project or reference database, begin with the author (if any) and title of the source, followed by any editors or translators. Use quotation marks for titles of short works such as poems and articles; underline or italicize book and periodical titles. Include publication information for any print version of the source before giving the title of the on-line project or database (underlined or italicized), followed by the author or editor of the project or database, the date of electronic publication (or latest update); page or paragraph numbers (if any); the name of any institution or organization sponsoring or associated with the site; and the date of access.

Swift, Jonathan. "A Modest Proposal." 1729. *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. Ed. Geoffrey Sauer. *The English Server*. U of Washington, 7 Mar. 2001. Web. 3 April 2013.

Jacobs, Harriet Ann. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Boston, 1861. *Documenting the American South: The Southern Experience in Nineteenth-Century America*. Edu. Ji-Hae Yoon and Natalia Smith. Academic Affairs Lib., U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1998. Web. 3 March 2013.

E-mail

For correspondence received via electronic mail, include the author, the subject line (if any) in quotation marks, and the word "E-mail" followed by the recipient and the date of the message.

Schubert, Josephine. "Re: Culture Shock," E-mail to the author. 14 Mar. 1998.

CD-ROM

Some works on CD-ROM, such as dictionaries and encyclopedias, are released in single editions that are not updated periodically. Treat such sources as you would a book, but give the medium ("CD-ROM") before the publication information.

Sheehy, Donald, ed. *Robert Frost: Poems, Life, Legacy*. CD-ROM. New York: 1997.

The Works Cited Page

A list of works cited, which appears at the end of your paper, gives full publishing information for each of the sources you have cited in the paper. Start on a new page and title your list Works Cited. Then list in *alphabetical order* all the sources that you have cited in the paper. Unless your instructor asks for them, sources not actually cited in the paper should not be given in this list, even if you have read them.

How to Alphabetize Your Print Sources

- When using MLA style, organize your Works Cited by the last names of the authors (or editors).
- If a work has no author or editor, alphabetize by the first word of the title other than *a*, *an*, or *the*.

Remember

- The phrase "Works Cited" is centered at top of the page in regular formatting.
- Use double-spacing throughout.
- First line of each entry is at left margin; subsequent lines are indented ½" or five spaces (use MS Word hanging indent).
- For each entry in the Works Cited, there should be a corresponding citation in the essay text.

On-line Journal

Note: The first date is the website's date of creation or latest update while the second date is the day the writer accessed the page.

Read more information about [citing online sources](#).

Baucom, Ian. "Charting the Black Atlantic." *Postmodern Culture* 8.1 (1997): 28 pars. Web. 13 April 2013.

Website

Read more information about [citing online sources](#).

California Wildlife Protection Coalition. *California Mountain Lion Page*. Sierra Club, 24 March 1999. Web. 13 April 2013.

Journal

Read more information about [citing periodicals](#).

Dennis, Carl. "What Is Our Poetry to Make of Ancient Myths?" *New England Review* 18.4 (1997): 128-40. Print.

Book

Read more information about [citing books](#).

Hansen, Kevin. *Cougar: The American Lion*. Flagstaff: Northland, 1992. Print.

"Lion Attacks Prompt State to Respond." *New York Times* 18 Oct. 1995, late ed.: A21. Print.

Encyclopedia

Read more information about [citing books](#).

"Lion." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 15th ed. 1997. Print.

Anthology

Read more information about [citing books](#).

Malouf, David. "The Kyogle Line." *The Oxford Book of Travel Stories*. Ed. Patricia Craig. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1996. 390-96. Print.

Newspaper

Read more information about [citing periodicals](#).

Perry, Tony. "Big Cat Fight." *Los Angeles Times* 8 Mar. 1996, home ed.: B1+. Print.

Video

Read more information about [citing other sources like videos](#).

Primates. Wild Discovery. Discovery Channel. Boston, 23 Mar. 1998. Television.

Updike, John. *In the Beauty of the Lilies*. Knopf, 1996. Film.

---. *Toward the End of Time*. Knopf, 1997. Film.

Youtube Video

Shimabukuro, Jake. "Ukulele Weeps by Jake Shimabukuro." Online video clip. *YouTube*. YouTube, 22 Apr. 2006. Web. 10 April 2013.

Tweets

Obama, Barack (BarackObama). "It's up to all of us—the people—to stand up to those who say we can't and stand up for the change we need." 8 April 2013, 6:12 p.m. Tweet.

E-mails

Smith, David. "Re: How to Write in MLA." Message to Joe Brown. 10 Dec. 2012. E-mail.

Practice Documenting Using MLA

Take what you've learned up to this point and apply it in this short exercise. The following paragraph has been adapted from: Burby, Liza *Better Homes and Gardens* Oct. 1998: 108.

Think of the level of excitement a kid has opening birthday presents. Adding to the fun are pizza, birthday cake, and games—quite a contrast to most days spent in a classroom. “Kids just don't get the same adrenaline rush memorizing a poem in school that they get from going to a party,” says Russ Quaglia. “The sense of fun and adventure they have in going to school and learning new things begins to wane by third grade when they've learned the basic skills,” Quaglia says. “By seventh grade, with their hormones kicking in and their peers being paramount in their lives, their lament is, ‘School is so boring!’ By high school, they're talking about school as some kind of prison.” It's not that are kids aren't interested in learning. More than ever, when they say, “booooring” what they really mean is this: “What does this have to do with my life? How does this have value for me? What's the point of doing work?” While your children may never react any stronger than staring off into space and sighing over their homework, there is much you can do to stimulate their love of learning. Send them off with a natural inquisitiveness that they learned from their first school: home.

On scratch paper, create sentences using quotes from the preceding passage, which is located on page 108 in the magazine. Go back to [documenting within the text](#) if you need some extra help.

1. Include the author and a signal phrase in your sentence.
 - o Burby suggests that parents should “send [their children] off with a natural inquisitiveness that they learned from their first school: home.” (108).

2. Do not include the author in your sentence.
 - Even though children may find school boring, “there is much you can do to stimulate their love of learning” (Burby 108).
3. Use a quote from an indirect source.
 - Quaglia argues that “kids just don't get the same adrenaline rush memorizing a poem in school that they get from going to a party” (qtd. in Burby 108).

Updated: February, 8 2005 by Abigail J. Aldrich

Signal Phrases

When you choose to use quotations, make sure that they are integrated smoothly into the text of your paper.

Readers should be able to move from your own words to the words you quote without feeling an abrupt shift. Signal phrases provide clear signals to prepare the readers for the quotation.

Choose a verb that is appropriate in the context. Here are some example signal phrases:

- argues
- asserts
- believes
- claims
- comments
- disputes
- illustrates
- implies
- points out
- reports
- suggests
- thinks
- writes

Ease the Reader Out of a Quotation

When you use a quotation, help the reader make a smooth transition back into your own words. To do this, follow up the quotation with a sentence or two of your own that reinforces or expands upon it.

Try Not to Overdo the Quotations

If you include too many quotations in a research essay, readers may form the impression that you cannot think for yourself. Use direct quotations only when a source is particularly clear or expressive.

Similarly, try to avoid too many long quotations. Or if you use them, be sure that you spend time discussing them in your own words. Connect your ideas with those of your source's.

All information written on this page has been excerpted from the official handbook of the IUP writing center:

Hacker, Diana. A Writer's Reference. 5th ed. Boston: St. Martin's, 2003.

Documenting MLA Within the Text

The MLA's in-text citations are made with a combination of signal phrases and parenthetical references.

Citations in parentheses should be concise yet complete enough so that readers can find the source on your Works Cited page at the end of the paper.

Signal Phrase

Use a **signal phrase** to lead into the quotation or borrowed information. Then use a **parenthetical citation** directly after the quotation or borrowed information.

Author Named in a Signal Phrase

You can use the author's name in a signal phrase. This allows you to:

- Prepare readers for a change of voice
- Keep the parenthetical citation brief

Flora Davis reports that a chimp at the Yerkes Primate Research Center “has combined words into new sentences that she was never taught” (67).

Note the signal phrase—Flora Davis reports that—and the parenthetical citation containing the page number. And note that the period goes after the parenthetical citation.

Author Not Named in a Signal Phrase

If you choose not to put the author's name in the signal phrase, or if you don't use a signal phrase, then the author's last name must appear in parentheses along with the page number.

Although the baby chimp lived only a few hours, Washoe signed to it before it died. (Davis 42).

Note that you must cite the source here because you are using a fact from Davis' book.

Sometimes the idea or information you are borrowing represents the entire theory or perspective of your source; in other words, it's not confined to specific pages. In that case, the page number can be omitted from the parenthetical citation.

An Indirect Source

When a writer's or speaker's quoted words appears in a source written by someone else, begin the citation with the phrase "qtd. in".

"We only used seven signs in his presence," says Fouts. "All of his signs were learned from the other chimps" (qtd. in Toner 24).

This tells the reader that you got the Fouts quote from page 24 of Toner.

Quotation Four Lines or Longer

Long quotations are **block indented** ten spaces, quotation marks are omitted, and no period is used after the citation.

Desmond describes how Washoe tried signing to the other apes when the Gardners returned her to an ape colony in Oklahoma:

One particularly memorable day, a snake spread terror through the castaways on the ape island, and all but one fled in panic. This male sat absorbed, staring intently at the serpent. Then Washoe was seen running over signing to him "come, hurry up." (42)

Altering a Quote

When using a direct quote in which you *insert a word of your own*, place square brackets [] around the word you have inserted.

Robert Seyfarth reports that "Premack [a scientist at the University of Pennsylvania] taught a seven-year-old chimpanzee, Sarah, that the word for 'apple' was a small, plastic triangle." (13).

If you *delete part of a quote*, use ellipsis dots . . . to indicate where you have deleted from the original source.

In a recent *New York Times* article, Erik Eckholm reports that "a 4 year-old pygmy chimpanzee. . . has demonstrated what scientists say are the most human like linguistic skills ever documented in another animal." (A1).

Watch Those Transitions

In a small band, you can hear the individual musical instruments, even though they work together to create a unified song. In a research paper, readers also have to be able to recognize the words or ideas that belong to others. But they also want to read a smooth and unified piece of writing. To achieve this, pay close attention to your transitions.

All information written on this page has been excerpted from the official handbook of the IUP writing center:

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003

Hacker, Diana. A Writer's Reference. 5th ed. Boston: St. Martin's, 2003.

When to Document

In a research paper, you will be drawing on the work of other writers, and you must acknowledge their contributions by citing them. In research writing, sources are cited for two reasons:

1. To alert readers to the sources of your information so that they can find these sources on their own
2. To give credit to the writers from whom you have borrowed words and ideas

You Must Cite When

1. You use a direct quote from any source
2. You borrow ideas from a source by:
 - a. Paraphrasing or summarizing parts of it
 - b. Lifting phrases or sentences from it
 - c. Pulling statistics or facts from it
 - d. Using information in tables, graphs, or diagrams

Rule of Thumb

If you are unsure of when to document, ask your instructor or a Writing Center tutor. Otherwise, when in doubt, cite the source!

All information written on this page has been excerpted from the official handbook of the IUP writing center:

Hacker, Diana. A Writer's Reference. 5th ed. Boston: St. Martin's, 2003.