What is MLA Style?

Modern Languages Association (MLA) style is one of several styles for academic citation. It is used in the humanities, especially English. The examples in this guide cover the more common sources only. For more detailed information, refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th ed) available in the reference and the circulation collections at **LB 2369.G53 2009**.

General Rules

- Double-space the entire list.
- Use hanging indentation format. Indent one-half inch from the left margin. In MS Word use Format > Paragraph > Special > Hanging.
- Alphabetize entries by the author’s last name or, if there is no author, by title, ignoring initial articles such as *A, An* or *The*.
- Reverse the author’s name for alphabetizing but otherwise give the author’s name as it appears in the source.
- If there are two or more entries by the same author(s), give the name(s) in the first entry, and then use three hyphens in place of the name(s) in the following entry or entries; alphabetize the entries by title.
- Capitalize the first, the last and all significant words of a title and subtitle regardless of how they are capitalized in your source.
- Omit initial articles for titles of journals, magazines and newspapers; also omit subtitles.
- Italicize titles and subtitles for works published independently; use quotation marks for works published only as part of another work, e.g. essay in a book or article in a journal.
- If more than one city is listed for a publisher, give only the first city as place of publication.
- Shorten the publisher’s name. Use *U* for university and *P* for press (p. 151).
- Missing publication information that you provide is in square brackets to show it did not come from the source; otherwise use *n.p.* for no place of publication or no publisher given, and *n.d.* for no date of publication given (p. 179).
- To cite material from a database to which the library subscribes, such as JSTOR, add the word *Web* before the date of access.

Parenthetical References

1. Wherever you incorporate another’s words, facts, or ideas, insert a brief parenthetical acknowledgement. Give the author’s last name and the page(s) of the source. If the author’s name appears in the preceding sentence, you may omit it from the parenthetical citation.
   - Medieval Europe was a place of “raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion” (Townsend 10).
   - Townsend notes that medieval Europe was a place of “raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion” (10).

2. For web resources, unless the pages or paragraphs are numbered, use only the author’s last name. If no author is indicated, use the first word of the title.

3. “If you borrow more than once from the same source within a single paragraph and no borrowing from another source intervenes, you may give a single parenthetical reference after the last borrowing.” (MLA Handbook 218)

4. In citing classic verse, plays and poems, omit page numbers and cite by division (act, scene, canto, book, part) and line, with periods separating the various numbers. Titles of famous works are often abbreviated (*Ham.* 1.5.35-37).
### BOOK & BOOK SECTIONS

**One author**  
(p. 148 #5.5.2)  

In-text reference: (Belton 32)

**Two or more authors**  
(p. 154 #5.5.4)  

In-text reference: (Chambers and Gattrell 52-53)

**More than three authors**  
(p. 155 #5.5.4)  

In-text reference: (Gillis et al. 27)

**Corporate author**  
(p. 156 #5.5.5)  

In-text reference: (Okanagan Writers’ League 65)

**No author**  
(p. 162 #5.5.9)  

In-text reference: (*Guide* 241-42)

**Anthology**  
(p. 153 #5.5.3)  

In-text reference: (Armstrong and Grauer 142)

**Poem in an anthology**  
(p. 157 #5.5.6 & p. 95 #3.7.3)  

In-text reference: When describing angels, Page says, “Perhaps only a dog could accept them wholly, / be happy to follow at their heels / and bark and romp with them in the green fields” (59-61).

**Article in an anthology**  
(p. 157 #5.5.6)  

In-text reference: (MacArthur 70)

**Article in a reference book**  
(p. 160 #5.5.7)  

In-text reference: (Holmes 1229)
Anonymous entry in a reference book: retrieved from online database
(p. 160 #5.5.7, p. 192 #5.6.4 & p. 223 #6.4.4)


In-text reference: (“Passion,” def. n. 6a) or One of the meanings of “passion” according to the OED is “….” (“Passion” def. n. 6a).

Anonymous entry in an edited reference book: retrieved from online database
(p. 160 #5.5.7 & p. 192 #5.6.4)


In-text reference: (“Keats”)

Introduction, preface, forward, or afterword
(p. 161 #5.5.8)


In-text reference: (Glotfelty xvi)

Scholarly edition
(p. 162 #5.5.10)


In-text reference: (Eliot 36)

Graphic novel
(p. 167 #5.5.12)


In-text reference: (Yoshida)

Book: 2nd or subsequent edition
(p. 167 #5.5.13)


In-text reference: (Moss 121)

Using one volume of a multivolume work
(p. 169 #5.5.14 & p. 222 #6.4.3)


In-text reference: (Yeats 48)

Citing indirect sources
(p.226 #6.4.7)


In-text reference: Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an “extraordinary man” (qtd. in Boswell 2: 450).
### Books and Book Sections (continued)

#### The Bible
(p. 162 #5.5.9 & p. 228 #6.4.8)


  In-text reference: *(New International Version, Josh. 1.9)*

#### Multiple publishers
(p. 173 #5.5.18)


  In-text reference: *(Loughlin 77)*

#### Book in language other than English
(p. 178 #5.5.22)


  Référence dans le texte: *(Rivére 87)*

#### Government publication
(p. 174 #5.5.20)


  In-text reference: *(Canada. Health Canada 12)*

#### Government publication: Online
(p. 174 #5.5.20, p.184 #5.6.2b & p.224 6.4.5)


  In-text reference: *(Kelowna. Planning and Development Services Dept.)*

#### Dissertation:
Retrieved from an online database
(p. 180 #5.5.26, p. 187 #5.6.2c & p. 192 #5.6.4)


  In-text reference: *(Blum 65)*

#### Electronic book
(p. 187 #5.6.2c)


  In-text reference: *(Bradford 53)*

#### Electronic book
Published before 1900:
Retrieved from online database
(p. 187 #5.6.2c & p. 178 #5.5.23)


  In-text reference: *(Defoe 28)*
JOURNAL ARTICLES

Include the issue number, whenever available, along with the volume number.

Print journal article
(p. 137 #5.4.2)


In-text reference: (Keyes 66)

Electronic journal article: Retrieved from online database
(p. 192 #5.6.4)


In-text reference: (Lawrence 144)

Electronic form only: No Pagination
(p. 190 #5.6.3)


In-text reference: (Eggleston)

Article in a magazine
(p. 142 #5.4.6)


In-text reference: (Bemrose 46)

Newspaper article
(p. 141 #5.4.5)


In-text reference: (Squire A1)

Anonymous newspaper article: Retrieved from online database
(p. 145 #5.4.9 & p. 192 #5.6.4)


In-text reference: (“Poet” A25)

Book review
(p. 144 #5.4.7)


In-text reference: (Grekul 182)

Work previously published: Reprinted in online database
(p. 159 #5.5.6 & p.192 #5.6.4)


In-text reference: (Costello 30)

ADDITIONAL COMMON SOURCES

Advertisement: Print
(p. 203 #5.7.10)


In-text reference: (Telus 27)
**ADDITIONAL COMMON SOURCES** (continued)

**Advertisement: Internet site**
(p. 184 #5.6.2b)


In-text reference: (Nike)

**Brochure**
(p. 174 #5.5.19)


In-text reference: (Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies)

**Interview: Published**
(p. 201 #5.7.7)


In-text reference: (Fleming 98)

**Interview: Conducted by researcher**
(p. 202 #5.7.7)


In-text reference: (Castricano)

**Class notes**
(p. 203 #5.7.11)


In-text reference: (Senger)

**Custom course materials: Reprinted from another source**
(p. 159 #5.5.6)


In-text reference: (Williams 68)

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**WEB DOCUMENTS**

**Internet site:**
**Single author**
(p. 184 #5.6.2b)


In-text reference: (Hogan)

**Internet site:**
**No author: No date:**
**URL required**
(p. 182 #5.6.1)


In-text reference: (Intelligence)

**Blog**
(p. 184 #5.6.2b)


In-text reference: (Zach)

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**Note:** include URL when reader cannot locate source without it or when instructor requires it.

continued . . .
WEB DOCUMENTS (continued)

PowerPoint posted to Vista (p. 210 #5.7.18)  

In-text reference: (Reeves)

Email (p. 205 #5.7.13)  

In-text reference: (Lovesey)

MEDIA

A Film: Feature (p. 197 #5.7.3)  

In-text reference: (Hamlet)

A Film: Documentary (p. 197 #5.7.3)  

In-text reference: (Tribal)

Television program (p. 193 #5.7.1)  

In-text reference: (“Money”)

CD (p. 195 #5.7.2)  

In-text reference: (Letourneau and Goldberg)

Video clip posted to an internet site (p. 189 #5.6.2d)  

In-text reference: (“Margaret”)

Exhibit in a gallery (p. 200 #5.7.6)  
Johnston, Byron, and Bryan Ryley. Here and There II. U of British Columbia Okanagan FINA Gallery, Kelowna.

In-text reference: (Johnston and Ryley)

Painting: Retrieved from online database (p. 200 #5.7.6 & p. 189 #5.6.2d)  

In-text reference: (Monet)

“MLA style is flexible, and sometimes you must improvise to record features not anticipated by this handbook.” (MLA Handbook 182)
Works Cited


