The information in this handout, based on the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition, *LB 2369. G 53 2009* covers many cases in research papers when outside sources will need to be credited. For additional information about other cases, consult the *MLA Handbook* available at the Reference Desk and on Reserve at the Circulation Desk.

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. MLA style provides writers with a system for referencing their sources through parenthetical citations in their essays and Works Cited pages. The author’s last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on the Works Cited page.

The seventh edition introduces student writers to a significant revision of MLA documentation style. In the past, listing the medium of publication in the works-cited list was required only for works in media other than print (e.g., publications on CD-ROM, articles in online databases); print was considered the default medium and was therefore not listed. The MLA no longer recognizes a default medium and instead calls for listing the medium of publication in every entry in the list of works cited.

The seventh edition also introduces simplified guidelines for citing works on the Web. For example, the MLA no longer recommends the inclusion of URLs in the works-cited-list entries for Web publications.

**PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS IN THE BODY OF THE PAPER**

*When you omit the author's name in your sentence:*
One researcher has found that dreams move backward in time as the night progresses (Dement 71).

*When you mention the author's name in your sentence:*
Freud states that "a dream is the fulfillment of a wish" (154).

*When you cite more than one work by the same author:*
One theory emphasizes the principle that dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes, *Sleep* 184). But investigation shows that young children's dreams are "rather simple and unemotional" (Foulkes, "Dreams" 78).

*When the work has two or three authors:*
Psychologists hold that no two children are alike (Gesell and Ing 68).

*When a work has no author, begin with the word by which the title is alphabetized in the "Works Cited" list:*
Random testing for steroids use by athletes faces strong opposition by owners of several teams ("Steroids" 22).

*When you cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon:*
. . . as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21).
SHORT QUOTATIONS
- Enclose short quotations (no more than four typed lines of prose or three lines of verse) within double quotation marks.
- Provide author and specific page (in the case of verse, provide line numbers) in text.
- Include complete reference on Works Cited page.

LONG QUOTATIONS
- Place quotations longer than four typed lines in a free-standing block of text.
- Omit quotation marks.
- Start quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented one inch from the left margin.
- Maintain double-spacing.

CITATIONS IN THE “WORKS CITED” LIST
Double space all entries and list in alphabetical order by author's last name. Generally, entries have three main divisions (author, title, and publication information), each followed by a period and two spaces. All entries in the Works Cited page must correspond to the works cited in your main text. If you are citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database, you should provide enough information so that the reader can locate the article in either in its original print form or retrieve it from the online database. Alphabetize works with no known author by their title; use a shortened version of the title in the parenthetical citations in your paper. See the MLA Handbook and FAQ for MLA Style on the MLA Web Site (http://www.mla.org/handbook_faq) for additional examples and advice.

Book by One Author

Two or More Books by the Same Author (Note: After the first listing of the author’s name, use three hyphens and a period for the author's name; list books alphabetically.)

Book by Two or Three Authors

Book by Four or More Authors

Book by a Corporate Author

Book or Article with no Author Named

Work with More than One Volume

Work in an Anthology

Work with an Editor
Essay in a Collection of Essays

Second or Later Edition

Reprint

Excerpted Article Reprinted in a Reference Work

Journal Articles

Weekly, Biweekly, or Monthly Magazine Article

Article in a Newspaper

Article from a Reference Book

Government Publication

Television or Radio Broadcast

Film

Personal Interview
Lesh, Philip. Personal Interview. 12 Nov. 1996.

A Work Cited only on the Web – Basic Form:
1) Author and/or editor names
2) Title of the work (italicized if the work is independent)
3) Title of the overall Website (italicized), if distinct from item 2
4) Version or edition used
5) Publisher or sponsor of the site; it not available use N.p.
6) Date of publication (day, month, and year, as available); if nothing is available, use n.d.
7) Medium of publication (Web)
8) Date of access (day, month, and year)
9) Readers are now more likely to find resources on the Web by searching for titles and authors’ names than by typing URL’s. You should include a URL as supplementary information only when the reader probably cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it. If you present a URL, give it immediately following the date of access, a period, and a space. Enclose the URL in angle brackets, and conclude with a period.
An Entire Web Site

Basic Format
Name of Site. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sometimes found in copyright statement). Date of posting/revision. Medium of publication (Web). Date of access (day, month, and year). <electronic address>.


A Page on a Web Site


Periodical Publication in an Online Database
When citing material accessed via an electronic subscription service (e.g., a database or online collection your library subscribes to), cite the relevant publication information as you would for a periodical (author, article title, periodical title, and volume, date, and page number information). Conclude the entry with the following items:
1. Title of the database (italicized)
2. Medium of publication consulted (Web)
3. Date of access (day, month, and year)


Scholarly Journal Article only available on a Web Site
Begin the entry by following format for citing works in print periodicals, but drop the medium of publication (Print). Use n. page in place of inclusive page numbers. Conclude the entry with the following items:
1. Medium of publication consulted (Web).
2. Date of access (day, month, and year).


See also:
MLA’s Web Site: http://www.mla.org
The OWL at Purdue University Web Site: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl

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