Cross-referencing: Using MLA Format
(Adapted from The Owl Purdue Web Site http://owl.english.purdue.edu)

Why Use MLA Format?
- Allows readers to cross-reference your sources easily
- Provides consistent format within a discipline
- Gives you credibility as a writer
- Protects yourself from plagiarism

Cross-Referencing Your Sources
Cross-referencing allows readers to locate the publication information of source material. This is of great value for researchers who may want to locate your sources for their own research projects.

Using a Consistent Format
Using a consistent format helps your reader understand your arguments and the sources they’re built on. It also helps you keep track of your sources as you build arguments.

Establishing Credibility
The proper use of MLA style shows the credibility of writers; such writers show accountability to their source material.

Avoiding Plagiarism
Proper citation of your sources in MLA style can help you avoid plagiarism, which is a serious offense. It may result in anything from failure of the assignment to expulsion from school.

Where Do I Find MLA Format?
- Composition textbooks
- www.mla.org
- OWL website: owl.english.purdue.edu

MLA Style: Two Parts
- Works Cited page
- Parenthetical Citations

Works Cited Page
- A complete list of every source that you make reference to in your essay
- Provides the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any sources cited in your essay.

New Ruling
- Listing of medium of publication required for every entry in the list of works cited.
A Sample Works Cited Page

Works Cited


**Works Cited**

Most citations should contain the following basic information:

- Author’s name
- Title of work
- Publication information
- Medium of publication

**Periodical Publication in an Online Database**

- Cite the relevant publication information as you would for print version.
- Conclude with:
  1. Title of database (italicized)
  2. Medium of publication (Web)
  3. Date of access (day, month, year)

**Periodical Publication in an Online Database**


**Scholarly Journal Article only available on a Web Site**

- Cite the relevant publication information as you would for print version. Use n. page in place of inclusive page numbers.
- Conclude entry with:
  1. Medium of publication (Web)
  2. Date of access (day, month, year)

**Scholarly Journal Article only available on a Web Site**


**A Work Cited only on the Web**

Basic Form:

1. Author
2. Title of work
3. Title of overall Website
4. Date of publication
5. Medium of publication (Web)
6. Date of access (day, month, year)

A Work Cited only on the Web

Works Cited: Some Examples
- Book
- Article in a Magazine

Works Cited List
- A newspaper article
- A source with no known author
- A TV interview
- A personal interview

Works Cited
What other types of sources might you need to list on your Works Cited page?
Study the basics of MLA citation format. When something odd comes up, look it up.

When Should You Use Parenthetical Citations?
- When quoting any words that are not your own.
  Quoting means to repeat another source word for word, using quotation marks.

When should You Use Parenthetical Citations?
- When summarizing facts and ideas from a source
  Summarizing means to take ideas from a large passage of another source and condense them, using your own words.
- When paraphrasing a source
  Paraphrasing means to use the ideas from another source but change the phrasing into your own words.

Keys to Parenthetical Citations
Readability
- Keep references brief
Handling Quotes in Your Text

- Author’s last name and page number(s) of quote must appear in the text
  - Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Wordsworth 263).
  - Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263).

Handling Parenthetical Citations

- Sometimes more information is necessary
- More than one author with the same last name (W. Wordsworth 23); (D. Wordsworth 224)
- More than one work by the same author (Joyce, Portrait 121); (Joyce, Ulysses 556)
- Different volumes of a multivolume work (1: 336)
- Citing indirect sources (Johnson qtd. in Boswell 2: 450)
- If the source has no known author, then use an abbreviated version of the title:
  - Full Title: “California Cigarette Tax Deters Smokers”
  - Citation: (“California” A14)
- If the source is only one page in length or is a web page with no apparent pagination:
  - Source: Dave Poland’s “Hot Button” web column
  - Citation: (Poland)

Handling Long Quotations

David becomes identified and defined by James Steerforth, a young man with whom David is acquainted from his days at Salem House. Before meeting Steerforth, David accepts Steerforth’s name as an authoritative power:

  There was an old door in his playground, on which the boys had a custom of carving their names. . . . In my dread of the end of the vacation and their coming back, I could not read a boy’s name, without inquiring in what tone and with what emphasis he would read, “Take care of him. He bites.” There was one boy – a certain J. Steerforth – who cut his name very deep and very often, who I conceived, would read it in a rather strong voice, and afterwards pull my hair. (Dickens 68)

For Steerforth, naming becomes an act of possession, as well as exploitation. Steerforth names David for his fresh look and innocence, but also uses the name Daisy to exploit David’s romantic tendencies (Dyson 122).

Handling Quotes in Your Text

There are many different combinations and variations within MLA citation format. If you run into something unusual, look it up!