

MLA Style

A Quick Citation Guide

This is the style established by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA). MLA style is used primarily in the humanities, especially in the fields of language and literature. The examples presented here are just a starting point. For additional examples, including sample papers, please refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition*. Copies of the handbook are available behind the Reference Desk on the 2nd floor of Smith Library and at the University Center Learning Commons.

When formatting citations in MLA Style, remember to follow the MLA Formatting Guidelines below. For general formatting rules, see section 4 of the *MLA Handbook*. The purpose of citation is to allow readers to access the information being cited. Proper citation also ensures that you are not committing plagiarism or misusing sources, which is in violation of the University Honor Code.

MLA FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Format of the Research Paper

1. Margins should be one inch at the top and bottom and on both sides of the text.
2. The first word of a paragraph is indented one-half inch (5 spaces) from the left margin.
3. Double-space all text, including quotations, notes, and the works cited.
4. There is no need for a title page. Your name, your instructor's name, the course number and date (each on separate lines) belong one inch from the top of the first page, flush with the left margin and double-spaced.
5. Double-space again and center the title. Do not underline or italicize your title or put it all in quotation marks or boldface or type it in all capital letters. Italicize only the words you would usually italicize in the text. No period after the title or after any heading in the paper.
6. All pages (including the first) are numbered consecutively throughout the paper. The number is placed in the upper, right-hand corner. Type your last name before the page number. Do not use the abbreviation p. for page or add a period, a hyphen, or any other symbol.

Works Cited

This page should continue the page numbering of the text and there should be a double space from the title of the section to the first entry. The words "Works Cited" should be centered one inch down from the top of the page. Indent any entries that are more than two lines. Organize the works cited **alphabetically** by author's last name. If a work has no author, use the title of the article, book chapter, or book. For more examples, see the indicated *MLA* section.

BOOK – SINGLE AUTHOR (5.5.2)

Harman, Claire. *Jane's Fame: How Jane Austen Conquered the World*. New York: Holt, Henry & Company, Inc., 2010. Print.

In Text: (Harman 65)

BOOK – TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (5.5.4)

Broer, Lawrence R., and Gloria Holland. *Hemingway and Women: Female Critics and the Female Voice*. Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama P, 2002. Print.

In Text: (Broer and Holland 20)

EDITED BOOK (5.5.3)

Conard, Mark T., ed. *The Philosophy of the Coen Brothers*. Lexington: UP of Kentucky, 2009. Print.

Tannen, Deborah, and Muriel Saville-Troike, eds. *Perspectives on Silence*. Norwood: Ablex, 1985. Print.

Note: Use (ed.) or (eds.) to indicate editor(s). For major reference works with a large editorial board, list the name of the lead editor, followed by et al.

In Text: (Conard 26); (Tanner and Saville-Troike 55)

ESSAY OR CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK (5.5.6)

More, Hannah. "The Black Slave Trade: A Poem." *British Women Poets of the Romantic Era*. Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472-82. Print.

In Text: (More 475)

BOOK – NO AUTHOR OR EDITOR (5.5.9)

The Holy Bible. Wheaton: Crossway-Good News, 2003. Print. Eng. Standard Vers.

In Text: (*The Holy Bible*, Ezek. 1.5-10); (Ezek. 2.1-5) [subsequent usages]

DICTIONARY ENTRY OR ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE (5.5.7)

Full publication information is not necessary for well-known reference books like Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (just include edition number and year). The definition entry or article title, with or without an author (depends on source), is contained within quotation marks.

"Passion." *The Oxford English Dictionary*. 2010. *OED Online*. Web. 12 Dec. 2010.

In Text: ("Passion," def. 6a)

Keane, John. "Paine, Thomas." *Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment*. Ed. Alan Charles Kors. Vol. 3. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. Print.

In Text: (Keane)

JOURNAL ARTICLE – SINGLE AUTHOR (5.4.2)

Toker, Leona. "Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities and the French Revolution." *Dickens Quarterly* 27.2 (2010): 154-157. Print.

In Text: (Toker 155)

JOURNAL ARTICLE – TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (5.4.2)

Rush, Kendra and Kelly Lipski. "Teaching Social Skills Through Children's Literature." *Illinois Reading Council Journal* 37.4 (2009): 20-25. Print.

In Text: (Rush and Lipski 24)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (5.4.5)

McKay, Peter A. "Stocks Feel the Dollar's Weight." *Wall Street Journal* 4 Dec. 2006: C1+. Print.

In Text: (McKay)

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION (5.5.20)

United States Cong. House. Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack.

Hearings. 79th Cong., 1st and 2nd sess. 32 vols. Washington: GPO, 1946. Print.

Note: For more information on how to cite government publications, see this [guide](#).

In Text: (United States Cong. House)

TELEVISION OR RADIO BROADCAST (5.7.1)

"The Phantom of Corleone." Narr. Steve Kroft. *Sixty Minutes*. CBS. WCBS, New York, 10 Dec. 2006. Television.

In Text: ("Phantom")

FILM OR VIDEO RECORDING (5.7.3)

North by Northwest. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. Perf. Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Mason, Martin Landau. MGM, 1959. Film.

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, OR PHOTOGRAPH (5.7.6)

Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn. *Aristotle with a Bust of Homer*. 1653. Oil on canvas. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

LEGAL SOURCE (5.7.14)

Brown v. Board of Educ. 347 *U. S. Reports* (17 May 1954): 483-500. Print.

In Text: ("Brown v. Board of Educ.")

ELECTRONIC/ONLINE BOOK (5.6.2c)

Pettitt, Claire. *Patent Inventions: Intellectual Property and the Victorian Novel*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. *NetLibrary*. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

In Text: (Pettit 73)

ENTIRE INTERNET SITE (5.6.1; 5.6.2)

Salda, Michael N., ed. *The Cinderella Project*. Vers. 1.2. U of Southern Mississippi, Oct. 2005. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA (5.6.2)

"Gogh, Vincent van." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2010. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

In Text: ("Gogh, Vincent van")

JOURNAL OR MAGAZINE ARTICLE IN A DATABASE (5.6.4)

Frasher, Ramona S. "Boys, Girls, and Pippi Longstocking." *The Reading Teacher* 30.8 (1977): 860-863. *JSTOR*. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

In Text: (Frasher 861)

ONLINE JOURNAL OR MAGAZINE (5.6.2)

Scham, Michael. "Don Quixote and the Art of Laughing at Oneself." *Cervantes: Bulletin of the Cervantes Society of America* 29.1 (2009): 31-55. Web. 7 Jun 2010.

In Text: (Scham 34)

In-Text Citations

Citing a source in the text enables the reader to identify the source of information through the Works Cited page at the end of your paper. Within the text, the last name of the author and the page number where the quote or paraphrased information can be found are inserted in the text at the appropriate point. This brief citation should match a full citation on the Works Cited page.

ONE WORK BY A SINGLE AUTHOR (6.1)

In a recent article on Shakespeare (Smith 198)....

Smith, in a recent article on Shakespeare (198)...

NO AUTHOR (6.4.4)

ARTICLE: In a recent article on Shakespeare ("Bard" 198)...

Note: In this case, use the title of the article in your parenthetical reference.

BOOK: In a recent work on Shakespeare (*Bard* 198)...

Note: In this case, use the title of the book in your parenthetical reference.

NO PAGE NUMBERS (6.4.1)

International espionage was as prevalent as ever in the 1990s ("Decade").

Fukuyama's *Our Posthuman Future* includes many examples of this trend.

The utilitarianism of the Victorians "attempted to reduce decision-making about human actions to a 'felicific calculus'" (Everett).

Note: If you cite from a publication that has no page numbers, try to use the author's name in the text rather than in the parenthetical reference.

QUOTE OR PARAPHRASE (6.4.2)

Litvak calls Winter's mumbling a "labor of disarticulation" (167).

One author calls Winter's mumbling a "labor of disarticulation" (Litvak 167).

Between 1968 and 1988, television coverage of presidential elections changed dramatically (Hallin 5).

INDIRECT SOURCES (6.4.7)

Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 2: 450).

Note: Whenever possible, try to get your material from the original source, not a secondary one. Sometimes, however, only an indirect source is available. If what you quote or paraphrase is itself a quotation, put the abbreviation *qtd. in* before the indirect sources you cite in your parenthetical reference. In your works cited list, the full citation would be for the secondary source, not the original source.

Still Need Help?

- **Call us** at 336.841.9101 or 336.841.9002
- **Email us** at reference@highpoint.edu
- **Chat with us** at AskHPULibrary from the library's home page: library.highpoint.edu
- **Text us** at 336.289.9974

Your name, the course number, the professor's name, and the date of the paper are double-spaced in 12-point, Times New Roman font. Dates in MLA are written in this order: day, month, and year.

Elizabeth L. Angeli
Professor Patricia Sullivan
English 624
14 December 2008

Green text boxes contain explanations of MLA style guidelines.

Blue boxes contain directions for writing and citing in MLA style.

Angeli 1

Page numbers begin on and with page 1. Type your name next to the page number so that it appears on every page.

Toward a Recovery of Nineteenth Century Farming Handbooks

While researching texts written about nineteenth century farming, I found a few authors who published books about the literature of nineteenth century farming, particularly agricultural journals, newspapers, pamphlets, and brochures. These authors often placed the farming literature they were studying into an historical context by discussing the important events in agriculture of the year in which the literature was published (see Demaree, for example). However, while these authors discuss journals, newspapers, pamphlets, and brochures, I could not find much discussion about another important source of farming knowledge: farming handbooks. My goal in this paper is to bring this source into the agricultural literature discussion by connecting three agricultural handbooks from the nineteenth century with nineteenth century agricultural history.

To achieve this goal, I have organized my paper into four main sections, two of which have sub-sections. In the first section, I provide an account of three important events in nineteenth century agricultural history: population and technological changes, the distribution of scientific new knowledge, and farming's influence on education. In the second section, I discuss three nineteenth century farming handbooks in connection with the important events described in the first section. I end my paper with a third section that offers research questions that could be answered in future versions of this paper and

Titles are centered and written in 12-point, Times New Roman font. The title is not bolded, underlined, or italicized.

The thesis statement usually is the last sentence of the introduction.

The thesis is a clear position that you will support and develop throughout your paper. This sentence guides or controls your paper.

The introductory paragraph, or introduction, should set the context for the rest of the paper. Tell your readers why you are writing and why your topic is important.

If your paper is long, you may want to write about how your paper is organized. This will help your readers follow your ideas.

MLA requires double-spacing throughout a document; do not single-space any part of the document.

Works Cited

The Works Cited page begins on a new page. Center the title "Works Cited" without underlining, bolding, or italicizing it. If there is only one entry, title this page "Work Cited."

The Works Cited page is a list of all the sources cited in your paper.

MLA now requires all sources to have a publication marker. For example, books receive the marker "Print" after the citation.

Allen, R.L. *The American Farm Book; or Compend of American Agriculture; Being a Practical Treatise on Soils, Manures, Draining, Irrigation, Grasses, Grain, Roots, Fruits, Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar Cane, Rice, and Every Staple Product of the United States with the Best Methods of Planting, Cultivating, and Preparation for Market*. New York: Saxton, 1849. Print.

Baker, Gladys L., Wayne D. Rasmussen, Vivian Wiser, and Jane M. Porter. *Century of Service: The First 100 Years of the United States Department of Agriculture*. [Federal Government], 1996. Print.

Danhof, Clarence H. *Change in Agriculture: The Northern United States, 1820-1870*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1969. Print.

Demaree, Albert Lowther. *The American Agricultural Press 1819-1860*. New York: Columbia UP, 1941. Print.

Drown, William and Solomon Drown. *Compendium of Agriculture or the Farmer's Guide, in the Most Essential Parts of Husbandry and Gardening; Compiled from the Best American and European Publications, and the Unwritten Opinions of Experienced Cultivators*. Providence, RI: Field, 1824. Print.

"Historical Census Browser." *University of Virginia Library*. 2007. Web. 6 Dec. 2008.

Hurt, R. Douglas. *American Agriculture: A Brief History*. Ames, IA: Iowa State UP, 1994. Print.

Lorain, John. *Nature and Reason Harmonized in the Practice of Husbandry*.

Philadelphia: Carey, 1825. Print.

Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862. Prairie View A&M. 2003. Web. 6 Dec. 2008.

MLA no longer requires URLs in the Works Cited. Instead, you must write "Web" before the date of access in the entry. This serves as the entry's publication marker.

If a print source does not list a publisher and you can infer who the publisher is, place the publisher's name in brackets.