Effective Teaching Program

New York State United Teachers Education and Learning Trust

MLA (The Modern Language Association)

The term MLA style refers to a standard way of citing references in your text and in the reference list at the end of your paper. Remember: there should always be a one-to-one identity between the references in your text and those in your reference list. No citations should appear in the text which do not appear in the reference list, and no citations should appear in the reference list which do not appear in the text. Refer to the MLA Handbook for Writer of Research Papers (Fourth Edition).

CITING REFERENCES IN YOUR TEXT (Parenthetical Documentation)

The major advantage of MLA styles over other styles is that it makes footnotes unnecessary. The most practical way to indicate to the reader what information you derived from each source and where in the work you found the material is to use a brief Parenthetical Documentation. Usually the author's last name and a page number are sufficient for the reader to locate the source in your list of work's cited.

There are two ways to cite references in the body of your text. First, the author's name may be part of your sentence, as in the following example:

Cohen and Benton state that "an alternative strategy is the use of heterogeneous groups that are trained to use their members as resources" (14).

Note the citation (14) tells that page 14 of the article by Cohen and Benton is where you found the information.

Second, the author's name may not be part of your sentence, but you wish to cite a given article in support of a point you are making, as in the following example:

At one time many children with IQ scores of 75 who were adapting poorly to school would have been placed in special programs for youngsters with mental retardation; they are not being placed there today (Reschly 173).

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Note that the author's last name and the page where the information is located are in parentheses with no additional indicators (Eg., p., pgs.).

If you wish to include two or more works in a single parenthetical reference, cite each work as you normally would in a reference, and use semicolons to separate the citations, as in the following example:

Executive function is another key factor in the poor performance of children who are mentally retarded (Baumeister and Brooks 18-21; Sternberg 123).

The parenthetical reference always precedes the punctuation mark that concludes the sentence, clause, or phrase containing the borrowed material.

One Author's / Editor's Name in Text

Toni Morrison illustrates this point in her work (25-30).

One Author's / Editor's Name in Reference

She says that she illustrates this point in her work (Morrison 25-30).

Two Author's / Editor's Names in Text

Both ConDavis and Schleiffer agree on these traits (40-43).

More Than Three Authors' / Editors' Names in Reference

"...as she and her mother" (Bell-Scott et al. 15)

Corporate Author

The American Library Association recommends ...(22-23).

Chapter / Essay in an Edited Work

(Faulkner 467)

Signed Article

(Adams)

Unsigned Article

("Holocaust")

Journal or Magazine

(Lupton 258)

Magazine - one page

(Seideman) Note: No page number needed for one-page source.

Newspaper

(Achelson 4)

Government Pamphlet

... as listed by the Office of Management and Budget's publication (12).

CITATIONS IN THE WORKS CITED LIST

The list of works cited appears at the end of the paper. Begin the list on a new page and number each page, continuing the page numbers of the text. For example, if the text of your research paper ends on page 10, the works-cited list begins on page 11. Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line or lines one-half inch from the left margin. Double-space the entire list, both between and within entries (MLA Handbook 107-108).

Book with One Author

Orwell, George. Animal Farm. New York: New American Inc., 1946.

Two or More Books by the Same Author

Borroff, Marie. Language and the Past: Verbal Artistry in Frost, Stevens, and Moore. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1979.

---, ed. Wallace Stevens:A collection of Critical Essays. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice, 1963.

MLA Reference Style

Book with Two Authors

Palmer, R.R., and Joel Colson. A History of the Modern World. New York: Alfred A. Knoph, 1964.

Book with More Than Three Authors

Jones, Robert, et al. Go Fly a Kite London: Princeton Publishers, 1997.

Two or More Books by the Same Authors

Durant, Will, and Ariel Durant. The Age of Voltaire. New York: Simon, 1965.

---. A Dual Autobiography. New York: Simon, 1977.

Book - No Author (Use Editor)

Hines, Eileen, ed. The Great Myth. St. Paul: Winston Publishers, 1996.

Magazine Article with Author

Shappard, R.Z. "A Case of Upscale Homicide." Time 17 Jan. 1985: 25-28.

Two or More Magazine Articles with the Same Author

Gandal, Matt. "Making Standards Work For All Students." Basic Education 40.6 (1996): 2-6

---. "Why We Need Academic Standards." Educational Leadership Sep. 1995: 84-86.

Magazine Article - No Author

"A Fledgling Alliance." U.S. News and World Reports 29 Mar. 1993: 46-52.

MLA Reference Style

Journal Article with Continuous Pagination

Craner, Paul M. "New Tool for an Ancient Art: The Computer and Music."

Computers and the Humanities 25 (1991): 303-13.

Journal Article that Pages Each Issue

Bathelme, Frederick. "Architecture." Kansas Quarterly 13.3-4 (1989): 77-80.

Reference Book - No Author

"Clinton, Bill." Who's Who in America 48th ed.

Reference Book with Two or More Volumes - with Author of Articles

Donne, John. "The Good Morrow." The Norton Anthology of English Literature.

Ed. M.H. Abrams. Vol. 2. New York: Norton, 1974, 243- 244.

Reference Book with Two or More Volumes - Without Author

"Cuban Missile Crisis." The History of America. Ed. John Doe. Vol. 4. New York:

H.W. Wilson Co., 1994. 23.

Interviews

Doe, John. Personal interview. 28 Mar. 1995

or

Doe, John. Telephone interview. 28 Mar. 1995.

MLA Reference Style

Reprint from a Book

Edsall, Thomas B. "The New Politics of Inequality." The New Politics of Inequality: How Political Power Shapes Economic Policy. New York: W.W. Norton, 1984. Rpt. in Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Social Issues. Eds. Kurt Finsterbusch and George McKenna. Guilford: Dushkin Publishing, 1994. 210-217.

Reprint from an Article

Klein, Norman. "Is Expressing Grief Always Necessary?" Psychology Today Oct. 1978. Rpt. in Death and Dying: Opposing Viewpoints. Ed. David Bender. St. Paul: Greenhaven Press, 1980: 91-94.

Citing Online Databases

Your entry should consist of the following items:

1. Name of the author
2. Title of the material accessed (in quotation marks)
3. Date of the material (if given)
4. Title of the database (underlined)
5. Publication medium (online)
6. Name of the computer service
7. Date of access

Examples:

Glicken, Morley. "A Five-Step Plan to Renew Your Creativity." National Business Employment Weekly. Online. Dow Jones News Retrieval. 10 Nov. 1992.

"Middle Ages." Academic American Encyclopedia. Online. Prodigy. 30 Mar. 1992.

MLA Reference Style

Citing Material Electronic Journals, Electronic Newsletters, and Electronic Conferences

1. Name of the author (if given)
2. Title of the article of document (in quotation marks)
3. Title of the journal, newsletter, or conference (underlined)
4. Volume #, issue #, or other identifying number
5. Year or date of the publication (in parentheses)
6. Number of pages or paragraphs (if given) or n.pag ("no pagination")
7. Publication medium (online)
8. Name of the computer network
9. Date of access

Example:

Alston, Robin. "The Battle of the Book." Humanist. 7.0176 (10 Sep.1993): 10 pp.

Online. Internet. 10 Oct. 1993.

Video/Films/Television Programs

Casablanca. Dir. Michael Curtiz. With Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul

Henreid. Originally 1942. MGM/UA video, 1992.

Heaven and Earth. Dir. Oliver Stone. United Artists, 1993.

"Women of the Kalahari." In Search Of. NBC, July 28, 1993.

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