

MLA DOCUMENTATION - Print
7th Edition

This guide shows how to do parenthetical documentation within the text of your paper and gives some examples of the most common types of citations for your “Works cited” list. The information in this guide is from the *MLA (Modern Language Association) Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th Edition*. Two copies of the manual are available to students; one is on general reserve and the other copy is located in the reference section (R 808.027 M69). *(Please refer to both handouts regarding MLA format for best results)*

PARENTHETICAL CITATION

Within the text of your paper, you must give the exact page number where the information can be found. Here is an example of a parenthetical citation in the MLA style:

“Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras, who lived in the sixth century BC” (Marcuse 197).

Things to notice:

- There is one space between the quotation and the first parenthesis
- There is no "p" standing for page
- The period comes after the second parenthesis.

The word you use in the parentheses should be the **first word** from the complete citation on your works-cited list. The first word will be either the author's last name or the first major word of the title (if no author is listed).

Note: If you mention the author’s name in a sentence, you need not repeat the name in the parentheses. If when citing a quotation that is longer than three lines, you must format the entire citation in block indentation.

WORKS CITED LIST

The Modern Language Association is continuously updating the format of the standard works cited style. The most recent update includes the following changes:

- **Italicize rather than underline.** The old way to format independently published works (books, periodicals, films, etc.) in the works cited list was to underline them, now you will italicize them.
- **Continuous pagination - Not Required.** Scholarly publication entries no longer require continuous pagination information. However, both volume and issue numbers are still required.
- **Medium of Publication.** MLA now recommends every entry include a medium of publication marker (Print, Web, Performance, DVD, TV, etc.). Follow entry guidelines on where to place marker in entry.

Complete citations for the information you are quoting or paraphrasing appear at the end of your paper in an alphabetized works-cited list. A works-cited page lists all of resources (books, articles, interviews, Websites, etc.) that you consulted and/or quoted in your research paper. (This list appears on a separate page at the end of your paper and used to be called a bibliography.) Use the following rules to begin your works-cited list:

1. Center the title **Works Cited** one inch from the top of the page.
2. Double-space between the title and the first entry.
3. Begin each entry flush with the left margin.
4. Indent the second line of a citation five spaces from the left margin (one tab).*
5. Double-space every line on the entire list.

* This format is also known as “hanging indent.” In MS Word, choose the Page Layout tab, choose the Paragraph section; expand it to the full menu, choose Indentation, “Special” and “hanging.”

6. Alphabetize by the first word of the entry, that is, by the author's last name or by the first major word in the title (if there is no author listed). The same rules apply to books and articles.
7. Don't separate categories of materials; put all your sources into one alphabetized list.

BOOKS

Author's name. *Title of the Book*. City of publication: publisher's name, year of publication. Medium.

Examples:

Tannen, Deborah. *You're Wearing That? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation*. New York: Ballantine-Random, 2006. Print.

Tannen, Deborah, and Roy O. Freedle, Eds. *Linguistics in Context: Connecting Observation and Understanding*. Norwood: Ablex, 1988. Print.

Note: If there are more than three authors, you may name only the first author and add "et al." (See below).

Example:

Plag, Ingo, et al. *Introduction to English Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton, 2007. Print.

PART OF AN ANTHOLOGY

Example:

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. *A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America*. Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88. Print.

Reprint of previously published historical work:

Franklin, Benjamin. "Emigration to America." 1782. *The Faber Book of America*. Ed. Christopher Ricks and William L. Vance. Boston: Faber, 1992. 24-26. Print.

REFERENCE BOOKS

"Article." Author. *Title*. Edition. Date of publication. Medium.

Example:

"Japan." *The Encyclopedia Americana*. 2004 ed. Print.

Example of specialized reference work:

Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. Ed. Stephen G. Post. 3rd ed. Vol. 4. New York: Macmillan-Thomson, 2004. Print.

PERIODICAL ARTICLES

Magazine articles

Examples:

McEvoy, Dermot. "Little Books, Big Success." *Publishers Weekly* 30 Oct. 2006: 26-28. Print.

Professional/scholarly journals

Basic entry:

Author's name. "Title of the article." *Journal Title* volume. issue (year of publication): page numbers. medium of publication.

Example:

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3-4 (1981): 77-80. Print.

NEWSPAPERS

Example:

Jeromack, Paul. "This Once, a David of the Art World Does Goliath a Favor." *New York Times* 13 July 2002, New England ed.: A13+. Print.

NOTE: Please remember to double space every citation in your Works Cited page. For specific details, please consult your professor