Using MLA Style

Works Cited List Forms

The in-text citations in the body of a research paper refer the reader to the list of works cited. This list includes the complete bibliographic information for all the works referenced in the paper. Included here are some basic forms for different types of reference resources.

Book

Author(s). *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium.


Article in a Book

Author(s). “Title of Article.” *Title of Book*. Editor(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Page Numbers. Medium

**Article in an Academic Journal**


**Article in a Magazine**

Author(s). “Title of Article.” *Title of Magazine*. Date of Publication: Page Numbers. Print.


**Article in a Newspaper**

Author(s). “Title of Article.” *Title of Newspaper*. Date of Publication, edition: Page Numbers. Print.


**Basic Form for Internet Sources**

Author(s). “Title of Online Document.” *Web Site Name*. Date of Update. Medium. Date accessed.

A journal article taken from a database

Author(s). (Year of publication). Title of article. *Title of Journal, Volume (Issue), Page numbers. Medium. Date retrieved.*


**Important Facts**

1) If you **cite a source in the text**, include it in the reference list.

2) List references in **alphabetical order** by authors’ last names.

3) The reference list should be **double-spaced**.

4) **Indent five spaces** after the first line of entry (“hanging indent”).

5) For sources with **no author given**, begin the citation with the title of the document, then follow with the date.

6) For sources **published by an organization**, list the organization as the author.

7) For sources with **no date given**, use the abbreviation “n.d.” in place of the date.

**In-Text (Parenthetical) Citations**

When quoting or paraphrasing a reference source, that source must be cited. The citation information (author’s last name and page number) is in parentheses after the quote or paraphrase:
“Participants in the study revealed that 88% of their anxieties resulted from inhospitable treatment by doctors and nurses” (Davidson 44).

1) If the author’s name is mentioned in the sentence, this information does not need to be repeated in the citation. Only the page number would be in parentheses.
2) When referencing a work by two or three authors, always cite all: (Gouldman & Lewis 165).
3) When referencing a work by four or more authors, the first author’s name with the “et al.” notation may be used for all citations: (Brown et al 14).

**Heading**

MLA-Style research papers do not include a separate title page. Therefore, an informational heading is included on the first page of the paper, aligned to the left and double-spaced. The heading consists of four lines of information: the writer’s name, the instructor’s name, the course (including number), and the date (written European style):

Greg Tomlinson

Professor Sandra Sutterfield

College Composition 224

7 October 2004

Following the heading is the title, which is centered. The text begins one line after the title, aligned to the left and with the first line indented five spaces.

**For More Information about MLA Style:**

Refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th Ed.), or visit the Writing Center!