

MLA STYLE GUIDE

WORKS CITED

COMMONLY CITED MATERIALS

Based on the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* – 8th Edition

MLA format is typically used for English, history, humanities, philosophy, and arts courses.

General Citation Rules:

- **Format** – double space typed and hanging indentation (first line of each citation flush with left margin, following lines indented five spaces)
- **Citation Order** - list citations in alphabetical order by author's last name OR, if no author name is given, the title is the first element of the citation; alphabetize on first important word of title
- **Author Names** - invert the first author's name - last name first, full first name and middle initial (if given)
 - for second and third authors, give the first name first, followed by the middle initial (if given) and the last name
 - use the word "and" between the last and second to last listed author names
 - for works with three or more authors, use "et al." after the first author; do not list the other authors
- **No Author** – use the title as the first element of the citation
- **Title Capitalization Rules** – capitalize all important words in article, book, and journal titles
- **Title Formats** –
 - **Article Titles** – place quotation marks at the beginning and end of the title
 - **Book and Journal Titles** – italicize
 - **Database Names** – italicize
 - **Website Names** – italicize
- **Publisher Names** – use the following abbreviations in publisher names: P for press, U for university; do not place a period after these abbreviations
- **Publication Dates** – with the exception of the months of May, June, and July, all months except September are abbreviated to the first three letters of the month (September is abbreviated to Sept.), followed by a period.
- **No Publication Date** – use n.d. in place of the date
- **Punctuation** – strictly follow punctuation between citation elements
- **Citation Elements** – in each of the following examples Citation Elements are labeled to help you identify general citation structure.

Citation guidelines for information sources not listed in this guide can be found in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 8th edition available at the Library Reference Desk.

Be aware that your professor may have unique citation style requirements. Check with your course instructor to verify his/her required citation format.

Need more help? – Ask a librarian in person or through AskUs24/7 at the library Web site.

MAGAZINE AND JOURNAL ARTICLES FROM A LIBRARY DATABASE

Liu, Jin. "Alternative Voice and Local Youth Identity in Chinese Local-Language Rap Music."

AUTHOR ARTICLE TITLE
Positions, vol. 22, no. 1, 2014, pp. 263-292. *Academic Search Complete*, doi:10.1215/10679847-2383840.
 JOURNAL TITLE VOLUME ISSUE DATE |PAGE NUMBERS DATABASE NAME DOI or DATABASE URL

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Note: Use a + after the page number, if a newspaper article jumps to a nonconsecutive page.

Print newspaper article

Davenport, Christian. "NASA's New Spaceplane is Getting Ready to Take Flight." *Washington Post*, late ed, 15 July 2003, A12.
 AUTHOR ARTICLE TITLE NEWSPAPER NAME
 EDITION DATE SECTION/PAGE

Newspaper article from a library database

Hilts, Philip. J. "In Forecasting Their Emotions, Most People Flunk Out." *New York Times*, late ed, 6 Feb. 1999, F2. *LexisNexis*,
 AUTHOR ARTICLE TITLE NEWSPAPER NAME
 EDITION DATE SECTION/PAGE DATABASE NAME
 www.lexisnexis.com/lxacui2api/results/shared/controller/permalink.do.
 DOI or DATABASE URL

Newspaper article from a newspaper Web site

Hilts, Philip. J. "In Forecasting Their Emotions, Most People Flunk Out." *New York Times*, 16 Feb. 1999. *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/1999/02/16/science/in-forecasting-their-emotions-most-people-flunk-out>.
 AUTHOR ARTICLE TITLE NEWSPAPER NAME
 DATE WEB SITE NAME WEBSITE URL

WEB SITES

Non-periodical Web site article with no author

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. "World Fisheries Must Prepare for Climate Change." *Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations Newsroom*, Mar. 2009.
 AUTHOR ARTICLE TITLE
 OVERALL WEB SITE TITLE DATE
Food and Agriculture Organization, <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/10270/icode/>.
 WEB SITE SPONSOR WEBSITE URL
 Accessed 14 Apr. 2009.
 DATE ACCESSED

