MLA Handbook for writers of research papers (7th edition)

What is MLA?

MLA is a reference tool used in subject areas for the Humanities. It provides extensive guidelines on how to formulate a topic, format a research paper, cite parenthetical texts and compile a list of works cited in English as well as other foreign languages. Other useful capabilities include documenting online sources, writing a quote from an e-mail received or incorporating abbreviations in your list of references. There is also in-depth discussion on plagiarism.

Parenthetical Citations

In general, MLA requires parenthetical citations, or citations that are put in parentheses, in the text, directly following the material that is quoted, summarized, or paraphrased.

1. Use a parenthetical citation when referencing works of others, following a quotation from a source or paraphrasing a source’s ideas.

2. In the author-page method, use author’s last name and page number (s ). When referencing the same page or a different page by the same author in a paragraph just incorporate the page number.

3. If an author is unknown (for example, with a web source), use an abbreviated version of the work’s title in quotes followed by the page number.

4. To cite authors with the same last names, include their full name or initials followed by the page number.

5. Citing authors with three or fewer authors, list the authors’ last names with ‘and’ before the last author cited. When citing more than three authors, cite the first author’s last name followed by et al.

6. Upon citing electronic sources, film or Internet sources, reference the source in in-text citations. Sources should be italicized.

7. Cite the name of the entire bible, chapter and verse. E.g. (New Jerusalem Bible, Ezek. 1. 5-10).

New and Revised Guidelines

1. MLA now requires the inclusion of issue and volume numbers of journals in electronic databases.
   - Use of Italics: Italics must be used now for the volume of a publication
• In-text citations and titles in list of works cited e.g. books, plays, poems published as books, pamphlets, periodicals, websites, databases, films, broadcasts, audio recordings (compact discs, cassettes, albums) performances (dance or opera), musical compositions, works of visual art, and the names of vessels (ships, aircraft, spacecraft

• the use of foreign words in English text

• Website and website publisher of when citing online periodicals.

• Designated words such as linguistic turn as compared to postmodernism.

2. Citations for graphic narratives and digital files must now include the type of file (PDF or MP3, for example)

3. Punctuation of titles of works

4. Citations of works in newspapers

5. Medium of publication must now be listed in every entry of list of works cited, including designating whether it is Print or Web-based, or Performance, TV or DVD.

6. Omission of URL’s for web publications; unless entry is difficult to locate

7. Figures, tables and captions do not use parenthetical citations. A full citation should be listed directly under the material.

8. Appendixes to additional writing guides and specialized style manuals

9. New abbreviations

PRINT SOURCES AND PHYSICAL MEDIA

Book


Book with Editor

Chapter in a Book (Work in an Anthology)


Signed Entry in Edited Multivolume Encyclopedia revised


Journal Article


Magazine Article


Newspaper Article


Videos/DVDS


WEB SOURCES

Articles from a Web Publication

Author’s name. “Title of the article.” Publication information

All of the above components used for print format as well as the medium of publication consulted (Web) and date of access (day, month and year). Electronic publications may not include page numbers.


Articles from Online Databases

Scholarly Journal

Magazine


Online Scholarly Project


News Wire


Newspaper Online


Newspaper from Database with Anonymous Author


Dissertation on the Web


Dissertation from Database


Entry in an Online Encyclopedia or Reference Book Database


ERIC Document

Conference Presentation


Wiki


Weblog (Blog) Post


Audio Podcast


Video Podcast


Video Weblog Post


E-Mail

Schleigh, Amy. “Highlights from Last Week’s Conference.” Message to Renita Krasnodebski. 3 August 2009. E-mail.

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REFWORKS

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