MLA Style Basics

To find out how to format or cite anything not covered in this handout, consult *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. (Call number LB 2369 .G53 2009) or the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)

Format

Papers should have margins of 1" on all sides and all text should be double spaced, using legible font in 10 or 12 pt. size. Each page should have a header with your last name and page number in the upper right hand corner. In the upper left of the first page, list your name, instructor's name, the course, and the date.

After the text of the paper, on a separate page, is the **Works Cited** list. Put "Works Cited" as a title on the page (no quotation marks), centered. List all sources cited in the paper, alphabetized by authors' last names, double spaced and using hanging indents.

If a work has more than one author, invert only the first author's name, follow it with a comma, and then continue listing the rest of the authors. For editors, translators, or compilers listed on the title page, their name should be followed by a comma and the proper abbreviation (eds., trans., or comps.). If an author has more than one entry on your list, then the listing for the second entry should be replaced with three hyphens and a period. Items without an author are listed by title.

In-Text (Parenthetical) Citations

The author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quote is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear in the Works Cited list. If more than one author has the same last name, provide the author's initials (or even her/his full name if authors share initials) in your citation. If you cite more than one work by an author, include a shortened title for the source from which you are quoting. Examples of in-text citations:

Freud states that "a dream is the fulfillment of a wish" (154). Some argue that "a dream is the fulfillment of a wish" (Freud 154).

Short quotations (fewer than four typed lines of prose or three lines of verse) can be incorporated in your text, enclosed within double quotation marks. Place quotations longer than four typed lines in a free-standing block, and omit quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, indented one inch from the left margin.

Works Cited

Source	Citation Format and Example (double spaced in your paper)
Print book with one author	Author last name, First name. *Title of the Book.* Place published: Publisher, Year published. Print. Jones, Stephen. *Walk of a Lifetime.* Salt Lake City: Brown Publishers, 2002. Print.
Print book with two or more authors	First author's last name, First name, and Full Name second author. *Title of the Book.* Place of published: Publisher, Year published. Print. Neumark, David, and William L. Wascher. *Minimum Wages.* Cambridge: MIT Press, 2008. Print.
Print book with more than three authors. While you can name all, you can also use et al. (Latin for "and others") after the first author	Author last name, First name, et al. *Title of the Book.* Place published: Publisher, Year published. Print. Hall, Stuart, et al. *Policing the Crisis.* Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1979. Print.
Chapter or article in an anthology or book of essays.	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Chapter." *Title of the Book.* Editor. Edition and volume. Place published: Publisher, Year. Pages. Print. Melville, Herman. *Hawthorne and His Mosses. The Norton Anthology of American Literature.* Ed. Nina Baym. 3rd ed. New York: Norton, 1989. 5-25. Print.

Second book by same author.	---. *AIDS: The Making of a Chronic Disease*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1992. Print.
Article in print magazine	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Article." *Title of the Magazine* Date published: Page number(s). Print. Whitaker, Mark. "Getting Tough at Last." *Newsweek* 10 May 1993: 22. Print.
Article in professional/scholarly/peer reviewed journal (print)	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Article." *Title of the Journal.* Volume and issue number (year): Page number(s). Print. Magistrale, Tony. "Wild Child: Jim Morrison's Poetic Journeys." *Journal of Popular Culture* 26.3 (1992): 133-44. Print.
Article found in a library database	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Article." *Title of the Journal.* Volume and issue number (year): Page number(s). *Title of the Database.* Web. Date accessed Yarup, Robert L. "Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*." *Explicator* 55(1996):34. *Literature Resource Center.* Web.17 Feb. 2004
Website article (not all information may be available)	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Article." *Website Title.* Website Publisher, Date published. Web. Date accessed. MacMillan, Douglas. "Twitter Joins With Adobe, Salesforce to Sell Ads on Site."*Bloomberg.com.* Bloomberg L.P., 20 Feb. 2013. Web. 25 Feb. 2013.
E-book – if it's a book you downloaded/borrowed/bought, it's basically just like a print book. If it's a book that you accessed through a library database/subscription, you treat it like an article accessed through a library database	Author last name, First name. *Title of the Book.* Place published: Publisher, Year published. How accessed. Jones, Stephen. *Walk of a Lifetime.* Salt Lake City: Brown Publishers, 2002. Kindle. Author last name, First name. *Title of the Book.* Place published: Publisher, Year. *Database used for access.* Web. Date accessed. Cohan, Steven. *Masked Men: Masculinity And The Movies In The Fifties.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997. *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost).* Web. 11 Dec. 2013.
Streaming video (E-video) accessed through database	"Title of the Movie." *Database.* Company publishing database, date of issue. Web. Date accessed. "Writing Essentials." *Films On Demand*. Films Media Group, 2010. Web. 11 Dec. 2013.
Newspaper article	Author's Name. "Title of Document." *Newspaper Name* Date, page, section and edition. Print. Krugman, Andrew. "Fear of Eating." *New York Times* 21 May 2007 late ed.: A1. Print.
Movie	*Title.* Contributors. Distributor, Year of release. Medium viewed (DVD, Film, etc.) *Dark Knight.* Dir. Christopher Nolan. Perf. Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, and Aaron Eckhart. Warner Bros., 2008. DVD.