

# 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*, 8<sup>th</sup>ed. (Call number LB 2369 .G53 2016) 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. Then, centered on the page, the title of the paper.

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 two authors, invert only the first author's name, follow it with a comma and "and", and then list the second author's name. For three or more authors, list the first one inverted, followed by a comma and "et al. For editors, translators, or compilers listed on the title page, their name should be followed by a comma and the appropriate title. 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 half an inch from the left margin.

## Works Cited

Source	Citation Format and Example
Print Book with one author	Author last name, First name. <i>Title of the Book</i> . Publisher, Publication Date. Henley, Patricia. <i>The Hummingbird House</i> . MacMurray, 1999.
Print Book with two authors	First author's last name, First name, and Full Name second author. <i>Title of the Book</i> . Publisher, Publication Date. Doris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich. <i>The Crown of Columbus</i> . HarperCollins Publishers, 1999.
Print book with more than three authors. Use et al. (Latin for "and others") after the first author	Author last name, First name, et al. <i>Title of the Book</i> . Publisher, Publication Date. Burdick, Anne, et al. <i>Digital Humanities</i> . MIT P, 2012.
Chapter or article in an anthology or book of essays.	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Chapter." <i>Title of the Collection</i> , edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, page range of entry. Melville, Herman. "Hawthorne and His Mosses." <i>The Norton Anthology of American Literature</i> , edited by Nina Baym. Norton, 1989, pp. 5-25.
Second book by same author.	---. <i>AIDS: The Making of a Chronic Disease</i> . U of California P, 1992.
Article in magazine (print)	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Article." <i>Title of the Periodical</i> , Day, Month, Year, page(s). Whitaker, Mark. "Getting Tough at Last." <i>Newsweek</i> , 10 May 1993, pp. 22.
Article in professional/scholarly/peer reviewed journal (print)	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Article." <i>Title of the Journal</i> , volume, issue, year, pages. Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's Bashai Tudu." <i>Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature</i> , vol. 15, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-50.

Article found in a library database (note URL if DOI is not available)	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Article." <i>Title of the Journal</i> , volume, issue, year, pages. <i>Title of the Database</i> , DOI. Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." <i>Historical Journal</i> , vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96. <i>ProQuest</i> , doi:10.1017/S0018246X06005966.
Website article (not all information may be available). This example includes the date accessed. This is optional for online works, but a good idea for sources from the open web, where pages may change.	Author last name, First name. "Title of the Article." <i>Website Title</i> . Website, Publisher, Date published. Date accessed. Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." <i>eHow</i> , www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html. Accessed 6 July 2015.
E-book – website or database          E-book – E-Reader	Author's last name, First name. "Title of the chapter or section." <i>Title of the e-book</i> , translated by or edited by First name Last name, vol. number, Publisher, Year of publication, page number(s). <i>Title of the web site or database</i> , URL. Austen, Jane, and Seth Grahame-Smith. <i>Pride and Prejudice and Zombies</i> . Quirk, 2015. Google Books, books.google.com/books?id=x5xPaPeZzmUC&lpg=PP1&dq=zombies&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q=zombies&f=false. Author's last name, First name. "Title of the chapter or section." <i>Title of the e-book</i> , translated by or edited by First name Last name, Name of e-reader device, vol. number, Publisher, Year of publication, page number(s). Doer, Anthony. <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> . Kindle ed., Scribner, 2014.
Streaming video (E-video) accessed through a library database	" <i>Title of Video</i> ." Directed/Produced by First name Last name, Film Studio or Distributor, Year. Name of Library Database. Url. "The Creative Brain: How Insight Works." Produced by BBC, Films Media Group, 2013. Films on Demand, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=103259&xlid=55707.
Newspaper article (print)	Author's Name. "Title of Document." <i>Newspaper Name</i> , Date, Edition if available, page. Krugman, Andrew. "Fear of Eating." <i>New York Times</i> , 21 May 2007, late ed., p. A1.
Movie –if you want to refer to the movie itself as the source, you cite with the movie title first. If you want to emphasize the director or a specific performer, cite the name of the performer or director as the first element of the citation.	<i>Title</i> . Director, film studio or distributors, List performers if relevant, release year. <i>Dark Knight</i> . Directed by Christopher Nolan, performances by Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, and Aaron Eckhart, Warner Bros., 2008. Name of desired performer or director, title of desired performer or director. <i>Title</i> , Film studio, or distributor, release year. Lucas, George, director. <i>Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope</i> . Twentieth Century Fox, 1977.

Sources of examples and instructions: < <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> > (Purdue University),  
<<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/citation/mla/>> (University of Illinois),  
<http://www.easybib.com/guides/citation-guides/mla-8/cite-book-mla-8/> (Easy Bib : a Chegg Service  
<[http://sheridancollege.libguides.com/citation\\_guide/mla](http://sheridancollege.libguides.com/citation_guide/mla)> (Sheridan Library and Learning Services), and the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 8<sup>th</sup>ed.

Revised for Ozuna Library, 1/9/16, C. Sanchez and T.O. Gonsalves