



MLA Citation Style

This guide provides a basic introduction to the MLA citation style. It is based on the 6th edition of the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#) published by the Modern Language Association in 2003.

Copies are available at the Vanier Library Reference Desk, in the Webster Library Reference Collection and on 3-hour Reserve (Webster). The call number for the handbook is LB 2369 G53 2003.

The [MLA Handbook](#) is generally used for academic writing in the humanities. The handbook itself covers many aspects of research writing including selecting a topic, evaluating sources, taking notes, plagiarism, the mechanics of writing, the format of the research paper as well as the way to cite sources.

This guide provides basic explanations and examples for the most common types of citations used by students. For additional information and examples, refer to the [MLA Handbook](#).

Parenthetical references in the text

Parenthetical documentation allows you to acknowledge a source within your text by providing a reference to exactly where in that source you found the information. The reader can then follow up on the complete reference listed on the Works Cited page at the end of your paper.

- In most cases, providing the author's last name and a page number are sufficient:

In response to rapid metropolitan expansion, urban renewal projects sought "an order in which more significant kinds of conflict, more complex and intellectually stimulating kinds of disharmony, may take place" (Mumford 485).

- If there are two or three authors, include the last name of each:

(Winks and Kaiser 176)
(Choko, Bourassa, and Baril 258-263)

- If there are more than three authors, include the last name of the first author followed by "et al." without any intervening punctuation:

(Baldwin et al. 306)

- If the author is mentioned in the text, only the page reference needs to be inserted:

According to Postman, broadcast news influences the decision-making process (51-63).

Parenthetical documentation is not used for electronic or web documents if there is no pagination.

Further examples and explanations are available in Chapter 6 of the [MLA Handbook](#).

Works Cited

The alphabetical list of works cited that appears at the end of your paper contains more information about all of the sources you've cited allowing readers to refer to them, as needed. The main characteristics are:

- The list of Works Cited must be on a new page at the end of your text
- Entries are arranged alphabetically by the author's last name or by the title if there is no author
- Titles are underlined (not *italicized*) and all important words should be capitalized
- Entries are double-spaced (for the purposes of this handout, single-spacing is used)

Below are some examples of the most common types of sources including online sources (web and databases).

Book with one author

Mumford, Lewis. The Culture of Cities. New York: Harcourt, 1938.

Book with two or three authors

Francis, R. Douglas, Richard Jones, and Donald B. Smith. Destinies: Canadian History Since Confederation. Toronto: Harcourt, 2000.

Book with more than three authors

Baldwin, Richard et al. Economic Geography and Public Policy. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2003.

Two or more books by the same author

Replace the author's name by three hyphens and arrange alphabetically by the book's title

Postman, Neil. Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business. New York: Viking, 1985.

---. The Disappearance of Childhood. New York: Vintage, 1994.

Anthology or compilation

Abate, Corinne S., ed. Privacy, Domesticity, and Women in Early Modern England. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2003.

Work in an anthology or an essay in a book

Naremore, James. "Hitchcock at the Margins of Noir." Alfred Hitchcock: Centenary Essays. Eds. Richard Allen and S. Ishii-Gonzalès. London: BFI, 1999.

Book by a corporate author

Associations, corporations, agencies and organizations are considered authors when there is no single author

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Action Against Climate Change: The Kyoto Protocol and Beyond. Paris: OECD, 1999.

Article in a reference book or an entry in an encyclopedia

If the article/entry is signed, include the author's name; if unsigned, begin with the title of the entry

Guignon, Charles B. "Existentialism." Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Ed. Edward Craig. 10 vols. London: Routledge, 1998.

A translation

Kafka, Franz. The Metamorphosis. Trans. and Ed. Stanley Corngold. New York: Bantam, 1972.

A government publication

Canada. Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Freedom From Fear: Canada's Foreign Policy for Human Security. Ottawa: DFAIT, 2002.

United Nations. Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division. Charting the Progress of Populations. New York: UN, 2000.

Book in a series

Bloom, Harold, ed. André Malraux. Modern Critical Views. New York: Chelsea House, 1988.

Article in a journal

Ferrer, Ada. "Cuba 1898: Rethinking Race, Nation, and Empire." Radical History Review 73 (1999): 22-49.

Man, Glenn K. S. "The Third Man: Pulp Fiction and Art Film." Literature Film Quarterly 21.3 (1993): 171-178.

Article in a newspaper or magazine

Semenak, Susan. "Feeling Right at Home: Government Residence Eschews Traditional Rules." Montreal Gazette 28 Dec. 1995, Final Ed.: A4.

Driedger, Sharon Doyle. "After Divorce." Maclean's 20 Apr. 1998: 38-43.

A review

Kirn, Walter. "The Wages of Righteousness." Rev. of Cloudsplitter, by Russell Banks. New York Times Book Review 22 Feb. 1998: 9.

Kauffmann, Stanley. "A New Spielberg." Rev of Schindler's List, dir. Steven Spielberg. New Republic 13 Dec. 1993: 30.

Television or radio program

"Scandal of the Century." Narr. Linden MacIntyre. The Fifth Estate. CBC Television. 23 Jan. 2002.

Sound recording

Ellington, Duke. "Black and Tan Fantasy." Music is My Mistress. Musicmasters, 1989.

Film, videorecording or DVD

The Shining. Dir. Stanley Kubrick. Perf. Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall. Warner Bros., 1980.

Macbeth. Dir. Roman Polanski. Perf. Jon Finch, Francesca Annis, and Nicholas Selby. 1971. DVD. Columbia, 2002.

Musical composition, published score

Beethoven, Ludwig van. Symphony no. 4 in B-flat major, op. 60. Mineola, NY: Dover, 2001.

Work of art, photographed, in a book

Cassatt, Mary. Mother and Child. 1890. Wichita Art Museum, Wichita. American Painting: 1560-1913. By John Pearce. New York: McGraw, 1964. Slide 22.

Article from a database

Provide the same information as you would for a printed journal article and add the name of the database, the platform of the database (if applicable), the access provider (Concordia University Libraries), the date of access and the general URL for the database

NOTE - If the article is in HTML only, pagination is not required. However, you can include the start page followed by a hyphen, a space and then a period. If a PDF version is available, provide pagination.

Brennan, Katherine Stern. "Culture in the Cities: Provincial Academies During the Early Years of Louis XIV's Reign." Canadian Journal of History 38.1 (2003): 19-42. CBCA Complete. ProQuest. Concordia University Libraries. 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.proquest.com>>.

Dussault, Marc and Bruce G. Barnett. "Peer-assisted Leadership: Reducing Educational Managers' Professional Isolation." Journal of Educational Administration 34.3 (1996): 5- . ABI/INFORM Global. ProQuest. Concordia University Libraries. 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.proquest.com>>.

Heming, Li, Paul Waley, and Phil Rees. "Reservoir Resettlement in China: Past Experience and the Three Gorges Dam." The Geographical Journal 167.3 (2001): 195-212. Academic Search Premier. EBSCOhost. Concordia University Libraries. 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://search.epnet.com>>.

Web page

"Joyce Wieland." Celebrating Women's Achievements: Women Artists in Canada. 2000. National Library of Canada. 29 Mar. 2004. <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/women/h12-523-e.html>>.

Internet site

Legends of our Times: Native Ranching and Rodeo Life on the Plains and Plateau. 22 Jan. 1999. Canadian Museum of Civilization. 29 Mar. 2004. <<http://www.civilisations.ca/aborig/rodeo/rodeo00e.html>>.

Article in online periodical

Sehmy, Dalbir S. "Wrestling and Popular Culture." CCLWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture 4.1 (2002). 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://clwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb02-1/sehmy02.html>>.