

# Library Guide

Mildred F. Sawyer Library  
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## RESEARCH PAPERS: MLA STYLE FOR CITING YOUR SOURCES

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The whole point behind citing your sources in a research paper is fair play. Plagiarism (copying someone else's words or thoughts as if they were your own) is the ultimate sin of scholarship. The rule is that if you use someone else's research or writing, you must indicate that fact to the reader of your paper.

There are many citation methods that may be used to do this. **The examples below are all based on the Modern Language Association's MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (sixth edition, 2003)**, which is available from Permanent Reserve or the Reference Desk.

Most instructors will accept any style of referencing, as long as it is correctly and consistently used. However, some teachers will want you to use other specific citation methods. There are two, besides the MLA style, most often required by university professors. One is "Turabian," A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, by Kate Turabian [REF LB 2369 .T8], also referred to as the "Chicago Style,"-- sixth edition available from Permanent Reserve or Reference Desk. The other is "APA," Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association [REF BF 76.7 P83]-- fifth edition available from Permanent Reserve or the Reference Desk. If an instructor requires you to use one of these other methods, use that method! And consult the appropriate guide to familiarize yourself with that particular citation style.

The modern method for citing sources within the body of your paper is called **parenthetical documentation**. With this system, a simple note (usually in parenthesis) appears at the point of the quotation or use. This note provides the reader with enough information to find the full reference in your list of works cited (a.k.a. "bibliography"). This list is always included at the end of your paper.

NOTE: "Footnotes" and Latin phrases like "ibid." are no longer common practice. They are difficult and inefficient. Avoid using this outmoded referencing method!

### PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES

Use parentheses to set your references apart from your text. Cite the source at the time a quotation, paraphrase, or other use is made. This is easy and efficient. Here are some basic examples in accordance with **MLA** (Modern Language Association) practice (MLA 6.2 – 6.4.2):

If the author's name is not apparent in the text of your paper, you must provide enough information for the reader to find the citation in your Works Cited list. Example:

**A 1994 study stated that "pharmaceutical expenditures have been rising both in real terms and as a share of national health expenditures" (Genino 6).**

If the author and title are clear in your text, cite only the appropriate page. Example:

**In his Autobiography, Benjamin Franklin states that he prepared a list of thirteen virtues (135-37).**

In some cases, you are actually citing an entire work (MLA 6.4.1). In that case, no parenthetical note is necessary, if you provide enough information in your text. Example:

**Franklin did not live to complete his Autobiography.**

And if you had more than one source by an author (MLA 6.4.6), you should also include the title of the publication as a means of distinguishing between them. Example:

**(Frye, Anatomy 237) AND (Frye, Double Vision 85)**

**Electronic and nonprint resources do not have page numbers**, and while some electronic journals use paragraph numbers, many do not. Page numbers should not be taken from printouts, since the pagination will vary with the printer and browser used. **If fixed page numbers or section numbers are not available for use in parenthetical references in the text, then the numbers must be omitted from the parenthetical references, and the work should be cited in whole.** For more information on documenting sources without page numbers, see MLA 6.2 and 6.4.1-2.

If you need more detailed information on this citation system, there are copies of the full, published MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, sixth edition (REF LB 2369 .G53 2003) at both the Permanent Reserve and Reference Desks.

### **LIST OF WORKS CITED (a.k.a. Bibliography)**

This list is required for all research papers and should include all materials you used for your paper. The list is in alphabetical order by the author's last name. Where no author is given, list the work alphabetically by the title (excluding A, AN or The). Instructions for the formatting and placement of the list of works cited may be found in section 5.4 of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, sixth edition. Please note that each entry begins flush left, and if an entry requires more than one line, then the subsequent line(s) are indented one-half inch (five spaces).

#### **Book by a Single Author, MLA 5.6.1:**

Graham, Carol. Safety Nets, Politics, and the Poor. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1994.

#### **Article in a Scholarly Journal (in this example, a multiple author article in a quarterly with continuous pagination, MLA 5.7.1):**

Mastrofski, Stephen D., Robert E. Worden, and Jeffrey B. Snipes. "Law Enforcement in a Time of Community Policing." Criminology 33 (1995): 539-63.

#### **Article in a Newspaper, MLA 5.7.5:**

Hill, Andrew and Lesia Rudakewych. "Nasdaq in Biggest Points Gain As Technology Stocks Recover." Financial Times 19 Apr. 2000, US ed.: 1.

#### **Article in a Magazine, MLA 5.7.6:**

Kurzweil, Raymond. "Live Forever: Uploading the Human Brain." Psychology Today Jan.-Feb. 2000: 66-71.

### **Article in a Reference Book, MLA 5.6.8:**

"National Endowment for the Humanities." Federal Agency Profiles for Students. 5th ed. 1999.

## **CITING ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS**

Due to the variety of resources available online and the transitory nature of the internet, there are several factors which must be considered when citing electronic publications, such as a full-text article from a subscription electronic database or an internet site. **The examples that follow are based on the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, sixth edition, section 5.9.** These examples are primarily concerned with citations for articles obtained through Suffolk University's subscription online periodical databases. **A works cited entry for an article obtained through a periodical database supplies detailed information about the articles's original appearance in a print publication, and about how to access the article from the database.** Specific questions about citation style should be addressed to your instructor.

**URLs (MLA 1.4.6d and 5.9.1):** Some databases use specific URLs (sometimes referred to as PURLs – Persistent URLs) to provide an exact online location for an article. URLs can be captured and inserted into your list of works cited by using copy and paste functions. If a URL must extend over two lines, break the line only after a slash, and do not use a hyphen at the break. When URLs are not available, or are impractical to use due to excessive length, MLA recommends providing the URL of the database search screen, or the subscription service's home page. In addition, your instructor may wish to see the path you used to arrive at a resource that cannot be retrieved with a URL or PURL.

**Dates (MLA 5.9.1):** Regardless of the type of online resource, the works cited entry will include at least two dates. The examples shown here require the date of the original (print) publication of the work, and the date on which you accessed the database. Or in the case of electronic journal or scholarly webpages the date of electronic publication, last update, or revision, should also be included.

**Page Numbers (MLA 5.9.7.a, 6.2, 6.4.1-2):** Most nonprint and electronic resources do not have page numbers, and while some electronic journals use paragraph numbers, many do not. Page numbers should not be taken from printouts, since the pagination will vary with the printer and browser used. If fixed page numbers or section numbers are not available for use in parenthetical references in the text, then the numbers must be omitted from the parenthetical references, and the work should be cited in whole.

### **(Scholarly) Article from a Library Subscription Database or Online Service, MLA 5.9.7.a:**

Krebs, Albin. "Eudora Welty, a Lyrical Master of the Short Story, Is Dead at 92." New York Times 24 July 2001, late ed.: A1. Academic Universe. Lexis-Nexis. Suffolk U. Sawyer Lib., Boston. 13 Mar. 2002 <<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/>>.

Merlan, Francesca. "Narratives of Survival in the Post-Colonial North." Oceania 65 (1994): 151-175. Expanded Academic ASAP. InfoTrac. Suffolk U. Sawyer Lib., Boston. 13 Mar. 2002 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com> >.

### **Web Site (Complete Scholarly Project, MLA 5.9.2):**

Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet. Ed. Terry A. Gray. Vers. 4.0. 13 Feb. 2002. Palomar College. 11 Apr. 2002 <<http://shakespeare.palomar.edu> >.

## GALE LITERATURE REFERENCE BOOKS

The following are examples of citations for the Gale literary criticism series, based on MLA 5.6.16 (Book in a Series), and MLA 5.6.7 (Work in an Anthology).

### **Gale's Contemporary Authors - Book in a Series, MLA 5.6.16:**

"Frederick Forsyth." Contemporary Authors. Ed. Daniel Jones and John D. Jorgenson. New Revision Ser. 62. Detroit: Gale, 1998.

### **Gale's Literary Criticism Series - Work (reprinted) in an Anthology, MLA 5.6.7:**

#### **Excerpts from a book chapter, reprinted in an anthology:**

Beach, Joseph Warren. "John Steinbeck: Art and Propaganda." American Fiction: 1920-1940. Macmillan, 1941. 327-47. Rpt. in Contemporary Literary Criticism. Ed. Roger Matuz. Vol. 59. Detroit: Gale, 1990. 328-332.

#### **Previously published scholarly article, reprinted in a collection, MLA 5.6.7; the title of the article includes the title of a short story, MLA 3.6.4:**

Murray, Donald C. "James Baldwin's 'Sonny's Blues': Complicated and Simple." Studies in Short Fiction 14 (1977): 353-57. Rpt. in Short Story Criticism. Ed. David Segal. Vol. 10. Detroit: Gale, 1992. 15-17.

## EXAMPLES OF WORKS CITED ENTRIES USING A SINGLE SCHOLARLY ARTICLE AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE FORMATS

These examples are for citing an article available in the following formats: the original print version, an electronic version from a subscription database, a reprinted version from the Gale Literary Criticism Series, and an electronic version of the Gale Series.

#### **Print:**

Bass, Eben E. "The Languages of Losing Battles." Studies in American Fiction 21 (1993): 67-82.

#### **Electronic:**

Bass, Eben E. "The Languages of Losing Battles." Studies in American Fiction 21 (1993): 67-82. Expanded Academic ASAP. InfoTrac. Suffolk U. Sawyer Lib., Boston. 17 Oct. 2003 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com> >.

#### **Reprinted in Gale Series:**

Bass, Eben E. "The Languages of Losing Battles." Studies in American Fiction 21 (1993): 67-82. Rpt. in Contemporary Literary Criticism. Ed. Deborah A. Schmitt. Vol. 105. Detroit: Gale, 1998. 364-371.

#### **Electronic version of the Gale Series:**

Bass, Eben E. "The Languages of Losing Battles." Studies in American Fiction 21 (1993): 67-82. Contemporary Literary Criticism. InfoTrac. Suffolk U. Sawyer Lib., Boston. 17 Oct. 2003 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com> >.