

# *Library Guide*

Mildred F. Sawyer Library  
Suffolk University

## RESEARCH PAPERS: MLA STYLE FOR CITING YOUR SOURCES

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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* (seventh edition, 2009)**, 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. The two other styles that are frequently required by university professors are "Turabian," *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate Turabian, also referred to as the "Chicago Style," and the "APA," or *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

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. See *MLA* 6.5 for an explanation of the appropriate use of notes.

### PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES

Use parentheses to set your references apart from your text. Cite the source at the time a quotation or paraphrase is made. Here are some basic examples in accordance with **MLA** 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 non-print 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 work should be cited in whole.** For more information on documenting sources without page numbers, see *MLA* 6.2 and 6.4.1-2.

### **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 5.3 of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, seventh 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. **The entire works cited list should be double-spaced, both between entries and within entries. Also note that MLA now requires users to specify the medium of the publication consulted (print or web).**

#### **Book by a Single Author, *MLA* 5.5.2:**

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

#### **Article in a Scholarly Journal** (for example, a multiple author article appearing in a periodical print publication, *MLA* 5.4.2):

Mastrofski, Stephen D., Robert E. Worden, and Jeffrey B. Snipes. "Law Enforcement in a Time of Community Policing." *Criminology* 33.4 (1995): 539-63. Print.

**Article in a Newspaper, *MLA 5.4.5*:**

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

**Article in a Magazine, *MLA 5.4.6*:**

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

**Article in a Reference Book, *MLA 5.5.7*:**

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

## CITING ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

**The following examples are based on the *MLA Handbook*, seventh edition, section 5.6.** A works cited entry for an article obtained through a periodical database supplies information about the article's original appearance in a print publication, and about where it was obtained online.

**URLs (*MLA 5.6.1*):** Earlier editions of the *MLA Handbook* recommended including the URL of web sources in the works cited entries. **The seventh edition only recommends including the URL if the source cannot be found without it, or if the instructor requires it.** If a URL is given, it should appear after the date of access, and be enclosed in angle brackets. If the URL must extend over two lines, break the line only after a slash, and do not use a hyphen at the break.

**Dates (*MLA 5.6*):** The works cited entry for an online resource will include at least two dates. For articles retrieved from periodical databases, users should provide the date of the publication of the work, and the date on which it was accessed in the database. In the case of e-journals or scholarly web pages, the date of electronic publication, the date of the last update or revision, if applicable, and the date of access are given.

**Page Numbers (*MLA 5.6., 6.2, 6.4.1*):** Most non-print 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, then the work should be cited in whole.

**Article from a Library Subscription Online Database, *MLA 5.6.4*:**

Krebs, Albin. "Eudora Welty, a Lyrical Master of the Short Story, Is Dead at 92." *New York Times* 24 July 2001, late ed.: A1. *LexisNexis*. Web. 13 Mar. 2002.

Merlan, Francesca. "Narratives of Survival in the Post-Colonial North." *Oceania* 65.2 (1994): 151-175. *Expanded Academic ASAP*. Web. 13 Mar. 2002.

**Web Site (Nonperiodical Web Publication, *MLA 5.6.2*):**

Gray, Terry A., ed. *Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet*. Palomar College, 21 Sept. 2009. Web. 10 Dec. 2009.

**GALE LITERATURE REFERENCE BOOKS**

The following are examples of citations for the Gale literary criticism series, based on *MLA 5.5.6* (Work in an Anthology) and *MLA 5.5.15* (Book in a Series).

**Gale's Contemporary Authors - Book in a Series, *MLA 5.5.15*:**

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

**Gale's Literary Criticism Series - Work (excerpts from a book chapter) reprinted in an Anthology, *MLA 5.5.6*:**

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

**Gale's Literary Criticism Series - Journal article, reprinted in a collection, *MLA* 5.5.6; (Note: 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* 14.4 (1977): 353-57. Rpt. in *Short Story Criticism*. Ed. David Segal. Vol. 10. Detroit: Gale, 1992. 15-17. Print.

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

These examples cite a single article available in the following formats: the original print version, an online version from a periodical database, a reprinted version from a Gale Literary Criticism Series, and an online version of the Gale Series. Note: the title of the article includes the title of a book.

**Print:**

Bass, Eben E. "The Languages of *Losing Battles*." *Studies in American Fiction* 21.1 (1993): 67-82. Print.

**Electronic:**

Bass, Eben E. "The Languages of *Losing Battles*." *Studies in American Fiction* 21.1 (1993): 67-82. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 11 Dec. 2009

**Reprinted in Gale Series Volumes:**

Bass, Eben E. "The Languages of *Losing Battles*." *Studies in American Fiction* 21.1 (1993): 67-82. Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Deborah A. Schmitt. Vol. 105. Detroit: Gale, 1998. 364-371. Print.

**Electronic version of the Gale Series:**

Bass, Eben E. "The Languages of *Losing Battles*." *Studies in American Fiction* 21.1 (1993): 67-82. Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism. Literature Criticism Online*. Web. 14 Dec. 2009.