MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA) HANDBOOK FOR WRITERS

UW | UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF ONLINE & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

Modern Language Association (MLA) style is one of several types of standards for writing and documentation. MLA style is typically used in the humanities compared with, for example, American Psychological Association (APA) style, which is generally used in the social sciences. The *MLA Handbook* is currently in its ninth edition. If you are writing a publication in the humanities, you will likely use MLA to cite formal works. Examples of formal works include journal articles, books, and professionally made multimedia. Exercise your personal discretion when citing works that may be less formal like social media posts, YouTube videos, and casual conversations.

A CLOSER LOOK

In academic works, citations are important to show readers how current arguments are informed by supporting material from previous research. Proper citation enables those reading (or viewing) academic works to accurately trace argumentation back to its original source. Some form of citation format is usually required for a paper or project that is submitted for academic peer review.

CITATION EXAMPLES (EXAMPLES FROM OWL.ENGLISH.PURDUE.EDU)

Single Author (Book)

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

Note: Only include the city of publication if the book was published before 1900, if the publisher has offices in more than one country, or if the publisher is unknown in North America.

Two or More Authors (Book)

This format remains mostly the same except that the first author's last name is listed first followed by the subsequent authors by first name, then last name.

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

Article in a Journal

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, pages.

Article in a Magazine

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, pages.

Article in a Newspaper

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, pages.

Scholarly Article from an Online Journal

Follow the format below if the publication you want to cite is available **only** online:

Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362. Accessed 20 May 2009.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [MLA Style Center](#) by Modern Language Association of America
- [MLA Formatting and Style Guide](#) by Purdue University
- [MLA YouTube Playlist](#) by Purdue University
- [Citation Machine](#)
- [Citefast](#)
- [EndNote](#)
- [Mendeley](#)
- [Papers](#)
- [Zotero](#)