The Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style is used in the humanities. MLA uses parenthetical in-text citations which refer the reader to a reference list of works cited at the end of a research paper.

This tip sheet is a guide for using MLA style and not the authoritative manual.

If you do not know how to cite a particular item or if you are citing an item not addressed in this handout, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers Seventh Edition* or the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*.


**NOTE:** Always ask your instructor which citation style you should use and which edition of the relevant style guide you should follow.

**PARENTHETICAL CITATION?**

A parenthetical citation is a brief reference within the body of your paper that guides readers to the proper entry in your works cited list.

In MLA style, the parenthetical reference usually contains the author’s last name and the page number on which you found the information or quote that you have included in your paper.

Sometimes, if there is more than one work by the same author listed in your Works Cited page, you may also have to include an abbreviated version of the title in your parenthetical citation.

Parenthetical citations look like this:

Experts believe that honor codes, important during Renaissance times, had a significant influence on the works of William Shakespeare (Terry 1071).

In this case, the author is pointing out that he has used an idea taken from a work by Reta Terry, and that the idea appeared on page 1071 of the text consulted.

A full citation for the item will appear in the works cited list at the end of the paper.

**WORKS CITED LIST**

Your works cited list should present an alphabetical list of all sources you have cited in your paper.

Most citation styles require you to format your list in a very specific way, and it is essential that you provide complete and consistent references in your works cited list. You can use the following examples to help you cite the most common types of materials you will use to write your papers.

**CITING BOOKS**

**A book with 1 author**


**Format**

Author (last name, first name). *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.
A book with 2 or 3 authors

**Format**
First author (last name, first name), and Second author (first name last name). *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

A book with more than 3 authors

**Format:**
Primary Author (last name, first name), et al. *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

An edited book

**Format**
Editor (last name, first name), ed. *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

A book in translation

**Format**
Author (last name, first name). *Title*. Trans. Translator (first name, last name). Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

CITING REFERENCE MATERIALS

Encyclopedia entry

**Format**
Author of the article (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Title of the encyclopedia*. Ed. Editor(s) of encyclopedia (first name, last name). Edition. Number of volumes in set if multi-volume set. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

CITING ARTICLES

For articles with multiple authors, follow the same conventions as you would for citing books.

Chapter, essay or article published in a book

**Format:**
Author of chapter, essay or article (last name, first name). "Chapter, Essay or Article Title." *Book Title*. Ed. Editor (first name last name). Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication. Pages.

Article in a scholarly journal with continuous pagination

**Format**
Author (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume (Publication Year): Pages.

Article in a scholarly journal that pages each issue separately

**Format**
Author (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume.Issue (Publication Year): Pages.
Newspaper article


Format
Author (last name, first name). “Title of article.” Title of newspaper [city if not included in title] Date, Edition: Pages.

CITING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Citing electronic resources is not an exact science and only basic examples are provided below.

You should be certain to consult an authoritative source when including this type of material in your works cited.

Web site


Format

Title of the site. Ed. Name of editor of site. Site version number (if relevant). Date of publication or date last modified. Sponsoring institution or organization (if available). Date accessed <URL>.

E-book


Format

Author. Title of e-book. Ed. Name of editor of book (first name, last name). Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication or copyright. [of original print version, if provided] Title of the site. Ed. Name of editor of site (first name, last name). Site version number (if relevant). Date of publication or date last modified. Sponsoring institution or organization (if available). Date of access <URL>.

Article in an online encyclopedia


Format

Author of the article (last name, first name). “Article Title.” Title of the encyclopedia. Ed. Editor(s) of encyclopedia (first name, last name). Date of electronic publication. Place of publication: Name of publisher. Date accessed <URL>.

Full-text journal article found in library database


Format

Author (last name, first name). “Article Title.” Journal Title Volume.Issue (Publication Year): Pages. [of original print version, if provided] Name of database searched. Database provider, if known. Name of library that provided access to the article, Location of library that provided access to the article. Date accessed <URL of database provider (if known)>.

Full-text newspaper article found in library databases


Format

Author (last name, first name). “Title of article.” Title of newspaper [city if not included in title] Date, Edition: Pages. [of original print version, if provided] Name of database searched. Database provider, if known. Name of library that provided access to the article, Location of library that provided access to the article. Date accessed <URL of database provider (if known)>.
WEBSITES ON MLA STYLE

Harnack, Andrew and Gene Kleppinger
Beyond the MLA Handbook: Documenting Electronic Sources on the Internet
http://english.ttu.edu/kairos/1.2/inbox/mla.html

MLA Style
www.mla.org/style

Diana Hacker: Research and Documentation Online
Guidelines and examples for citing print and online resources in a variety of different fields.
www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Research Help Desk
Location: Main (2nd) floor, MacOdrum Library
Telephone: 613-520-2735
See click “Cite your sources” link at
www.library.carleton.ca

RefWorks
RefWorks will let you store your citations and help you create a bibliography.
www.library.carleton.ca.

Writing Tutorial Service
Location: Room 404, MacOdrum Library
Telephone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1125
http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/