

# MLA Citations and Reference Lists

## I. Citations

### Sections 6.1-6.5.2 (pages 238-260) of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed., 2003.

Document your sources throughout the text by citing the author and date of the works you used in your research. This style of citation follows the author-page format, briefly identifies your sources for readers, and enables them to locate full bibliographic entries for your sources in the alphabetical Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

#### Basic Parenthetical Citation

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text, or parenthetical, citation. This means that the author's surname and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text. A complete entry also should appear on your Works Cited page. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. For example:

Wordsworth states that Romantic poetry is marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

#### Multiple Citations

To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon:

...as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21).

#### Classic and Literary Works with Multiple Editions

Page numbers are always required, but additional information may help readers who have different editions of classic or common literary work. In such cases, give the page number of your edition followed by a semicolon and the appropriate abbreviations for volume (vol.), book (bk.), part (pt.), chapter (ch.), section (sec.), paragraph (par.) as available. For example:

Marx and Engels described human history as marked by class struggles (79; ch. 1).

#### Anonymous Work / Unknown Author

If the work has no author, use an abbreviated version of the work's title. For example:

An anonymous Wordsworth critic argues that his poems are too emotional ("Wordsworth Is a Loser" 100).

#### Citing Authors with Same Last Names

If two or more authors have the same last name, provide either the authors' first initials or their full names if they share initials. For example:

Although some medical ethicists claim that cloning will lead to designer children (R. Miller 12), others note that the advantages for medical research outweigh this consideration (A. Miller 46).

#### Citing Multiple Works by the Same Author

If you cite more than one work by a particular author in your paper, include a shortened title for the particular work from which you are currently quoting. For example:

Lightenor has argued that computers are not useful tools for small children ("Too Soon" 38), though he has acknowledged elsewhere that early exposure to computer games does lead to better small motor skill development in a child's second and third year ("Hand-Eye Development" 17).

If you do not mention the author's name in the sentence, format your citation with the author's name followed by a comma, a shortened title of the work, and (when appropriate) by page numbers:

Visual studies, because it is such a new discipline, may be "too easy" (Elkins, "Visual Studies" 63).

#### Citing Indirect Sources

An indirect source is a source cited from another source. For such indirect quotations, use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you consulted. For example:

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

**Citing the Bible**

In your first parenthetical citation, note which translation you are using (underlined or italicized), followed by book, chapter, and verse. For example:

Ezekiel saw "what seemed to be four living creatures," each with faces of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (New Jerusalem Bible, Ezek. 1.5-10).

All future references cite book, chapter, and verse only.

**When Citation is Not Needed**

Common sense and ethics should determine if you need to provide a citation. You do not need to give sources for familiar proverbs, well-known quotations, or common knowledge. Remember, this is a rhetorical choice based on your audience.

**II. Reference List**

**Sections 5.1-5.9.9 (pages 142-235) of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed., 2003.**

MLA publishes references in a "hanging indent" format, meaning that the first line of each reference is set flush left and subsequent lines are indented. All citations are double-spaced.

- Book by a Single Author:** Gibson, Mary Ellis. Epic Reinvented: Ezra Pound and the Victorians. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1995.
- Book by Two or More Authors:** Rodman, Hyman, Susan H. Lewis, and Saralyn B. Griffith. The Sexual Rights of Adolescents: Competence, Vulnerability, And Parental Control. New York: Columbia UP, 1984.
- Article or Essay in a Collection or Anthology:** Bracci, Sharon L. "' The Fragile Hope of Seyla Benhabib's Interactive Universalism.'" Moral Engagement in Public Life: Theorists for Contemporary Ethics. Ed. Sharon L. Bracci and Clifford G. Christians. New York: P. Lang, 2002. 123-149.
- Encyclopedia Article (unsigned):** "Flagellation." The Encyclopedia Americana. 1999 ed.
- Journal Article with Continuous Pagination:** Donaldson, Scott. "Protecting the Troops from Hemingway: An Episode in Censorship." The Hemingway Review 15 (1995): 87-93.
- Journal article in a Scholarly Journal that Paginates Each Issue Separately:** Mitchell, Diana. "Teaching Ideas: Approaching Race and Gender Issues in the Context of the Language Arts Classroom." English Journal 85.8 (1996): 77.
- Magazine article (signed):** Leland, John. "The New Generation Gap." Newsweek 17 Mar. 1997: 52+.
- Newspaper Article:** Broad, William. "The Comet's Gift: Hints of How Earth Came to Life." New York Times 1 Apr. 1997: C1+.
- Personal Interview:** Fogarty, N. Personal interview. 2 July 2003.
- Electronic Resource:** Mallin, Irwin and, Karrin Vasby Anderson. "Inviting Constructive Argument." Argumentation and Advocacy 36 (2000): 120, Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. UNC Greensboro. 7 July 2003. <http://search.epnet.com>.
- Internet Site:** Cristall, Ann Batten. Poetical Sketches. London: J. Johnson, 1795. The Electronic Text Center. Alderman Lib., University of Virginia. 13 August 2001. <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/britpo.html>.