

MLA Citation Form

Example from a Sample Essay:

There can be no doubt that the Apothecary's potions are powerful. As Romeo proclaims, "O true apothecary, / Thy drugs are quick" (IV, iii 119-20). But what are they made of? Some scholars have argued that Shakespeare based the death potion on known poisons, borrowing his medical knowledge from the leading authorities of the day (Hastings 16, Birk 107). Compendia of medieval remedies include poisons alongside standard therapeutic drugs (Stark 11). But Craig V. Populi has shown that Shakespeare could not have encountered a real-life death potion; he must have fabricated it imaginatively for the concluding scenes of *Romeo and Juliet* (29). The fatal drink: fact or fiction?

Works Cited

- Birk, Alan. "Romeo's Last Purchase: Buying Poison in the Renaissance." *Early Modern Literature* 58 (1999): 285-301. Rpt. in *Shakespearean Criticism*. Ed. Mark W. Scott. Vol. 5. Detroit: Gale Research, 1987. *Literature Resource Center*. Web.
- Hastings, Nancy B. *Shakespeare's Apothecary Shop: Medical Knowledge in Renaissance London*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1998.
- Populi, Craig V. "Herbs, Simples, and Venom: Drugs in *Romeo and Juliet*." *Journal of Fictional Medicine* 45 (2003): 18-36. Print.
- Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.
- Stark, Alexandra. "Medieval Medicine Mastered." In *Medicine Through History*. Ed. Jonathan Craik. Yale Medical School. (September 6, 2011). Web.

[From the Mayfield Manual, on MLA Citation Form]

General Structure

The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 4th ed. (1995), recommends a system of in-text citations that clearly point to entries included in a reference list, called *Works Cited* at the end of the document. . . . MLA style emphasizes the exact location of information. Consequently, the specific page numbers of a reference are always listed in the citation unless the reference is clearly to the entire source as a whole.

Citation in Text

The connection between brain damage and autism is no longer disputed (Bailey 8).

Entry in List of Works Cited

Bailey, Arthur. "The Biology of Autism." *Psychological Medicine* 23 (1993): 7-11.

Name of Author Included in Text

MLA style encourages placing the name of the author in the running text, thus decreasing the number and size of parenthetical citations and making the prose more readable. If the name of the author is included in the text, include in the citation only the page number (and, if your Works Cited list includes two works by the same author, a short title).

Bailey concludes that the connection between brain damage and autism is no longer disputed (8).

Williams independently reached the same conclusion (111-19).

Placement of Parenthetical Citation

Because MLA style emphasizes readability, it recommends, in general, placing parenthetical citations at the end of the sentence rather than immediately after the information being cited. If the author's name is included in the text, the page number should still be placed at the end of the sentence.

Page Numbers

Indicate page numbers without *p.* or *pp.* For a range of numbers, give the full first number and the final two digits of the last number with a hyphen in between. Give more than two digits in cases where they are needed to make the range immediately apparent to the reader (66-98, but 66-103 instead of 66-03).

Quotations

Place the citation immediately after the quotation but before any punctuation ending the clause or sentence. However, if the quotation ends with an exclamation point or a question mark, place that punctuation mark before the closing quotation mark, and then write the parenthetical citation followed by the punctuation that ends the clause or sentence.

The developer of MIT's Media MOO observes "Virtual communities, social clubs, universities, and corporations are all groups of people brought together for a purpose. Achieving that purpose often requires that there be some way to determine who can join that community" (Bruckman 51-52).

Bruckman observes, "Virtual communities, social clubs, universities, and corporations are all groups of people brought together for a purpose. Achieving that purpose often requires that there be some way to determine who can join that community" (51-52).

Noting that gravitational and kinetic energies are no longer equal, Lightman asks, "Why are [they] becoming unbalanced at this particular moment in cosmic time, just when *Homo sapiens* happened to arrive?" (61).

Set off quotations of more than four lines by starting them on a new line and indenting each line ten spaces or one inch. If the quotation is only one paragraph or part of one, do not indent the first line further. If the quotation includes the beginning of a second paragraph, indent the first line of each complete paragraph an additional three spaces or one-fourth inch. Place the citation *after* the final punctuation.

Use of Endnotes or Footnotes

MLA style allows two types of endnotes or footnotes.

1. Content notes providing supplementary information, explanations, and comments that would interrupt the readability of the text. In general, avoid long notes. Use notes only to include material that you cannot fit into the text but that is essential for a clear and complete understanding of what you have written.
2. Bibliographic notes giving additional references and evaluative comments on sources, contact information, or both for each of the document's authors.

Number your notes consecutively, using superscript arabic numerals both in the text and in your endnotes.

Content Guidelines [for Works Cited list]

Include all sources that have contributed ideas and information to your document. Be sure that the entries correspond to and match the in-text references. A list of works cited includes only sources mentioned in the text, notes, or appendixes. If you need to mention works that you consulted but that did not directly contribute information or ideas to your document, change the title to *Works Consulted*. Include references to all sources, whether or not they are publicly available.

Page Format

- Title: Works Cited (centered)
- Ordering of entries: Arrange in alphabetical order by first author's last name or, for works without authors, the first significant word in the title. List a single-author entry before a multiple-author entry beginning with the same author name. Do not number entries.

- Spacing: Double-space both within and between entries.
- Indentation: Begin the first line at the left margin, and all subsequent lines five spaces or half an inch.

General Structure of Entry

An MLA *Works Cited* entry has three basic elements: author(s); title; and publication information. Separate the elements with a period and a single space. In some cases, such as online materials and articles in an edited book, other elements are included.

1. *Author or authors*: List the authors or, in some cases, the editors of the work in the order and form in which they are listed on the title page of the document. Include all first names, middle names, and initials. List the first author by last name followed by a comma, a space, and the rest of the name. For works with two authors, follow the first author's name with a comma and a space, and then list the second author's name in straightforward order followed by a period. For works with three authors, follow the first author's name with a comma and a space, then list the second and third authors' names. For works with more than three authors (or editors), list only the inverted name of the first author followed by a comma and "et al." the Latin phrase meaning "and others." If a work produced by an organization lists no individual author, give the full name of the organization as author. If no author or organization is listed, move the title of the work into the author position. If your list of works cited includes two or more works by the same person, list the name in full in the first entry. In subsequent entries, type three hyphens and a period in place of the name. The three hyphens indicate exactly the same name or names as the preceding entry and can be used even if the role (author or editor) is different.
2. *Title*: Give the full name of work including subtitles, which are separated from the title by a colon and a single space. Capitalize the first and last words of a title and subtitle and all other words except articles, coordinating conjunctions, prepositions and the *to* in infinitives.
3. *Publication information*

Date format: MLA style includes the year and, in some cases, the month and day as part of the publication information. Dates are given in arabic numerals in the the format day, month, and year without any commas. Abbreviate all months except May, June, and July with the month's first three letters plus a period (for example, 12 Sep. 1991).

Page numbers: Indicate page numbers without the abbreviation *p.* or *pp.* For a range of numbers, write out the full first number and the final two digits of the last number, with a hyphen in between. Give more than two digits in cases where they are needed to make the range immediately apparent to the reader (66-98, but 66-103 instead of 66-03).

Books

Title: Italicize or underline book titles (including spaces). If the book is an edited work and the author is listed, include the edition number and the editor or editors as a separate element between the title and the publication information. Treat a translation the same way. Separate the elements with periods.

Publication information: List the city (written out in full). If the city is not well known or could be confused with another location, add the state (two-letter postal abbreviation) for U.S. locations or the country for foreign publishers. End the location information with a colon and a space followed by a short version of the publisher's name (Harcourt for Harcourt Brace & Co., and Beacon for Beacon Press, Inc.). Use the abbreviation UP for University Press. After the publisher's name type a comma, and then give the year of publication followed by a period.

Book by one Author

Lightman, Alan. *Ancient Light: Our Changing View of the Universe*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1991.

Book by Two Authors

Chomsky, Noam, and Morris Halle. *The Sound Patterns of English*. New York: Harper, 1968.

Edited Book or Anthology

Place the editor or editors (followed by a comma, a space, and *ed.* or *eds.*) in the author position.

Spudich, John L., and Bruce H. Satir, eds. *Sensory Receptors and Signal Transduction*. New York: Wiley-Liss, 1991.

Selection in an Edited Book

This type of entry has six parts, each ending with a period: (1) the author of the selection; (2) the title of the selection; (3) the title of the edited book; (4) the full name of the editor; (5) publication information; and (6) the page numbers of the selection.

Lipson, Edward D., and Bruce D. Horwitz. "Photosensory Reception and Transduction." *Sensory Receptors and Signal Transduction*. Ed. John L. Spudich and Bruce H. Satir. New York: Wiley-Liss, 1991. 1-64.

Two or More Works by the Same Author

Chomsky, Noam. "Current Issues in Linguistic Theory." *The Structure of Language*. Ed. Jerry A. Fodor and Jerrold J. Katz. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice, 1967. 50-118.

---. "Degrees of Grammaticalness." *The Structure of Language*. Ed. Jerry A. Fodor and Jerrold J. Katz. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice, 1967. 384-89.

Chomsky, Noam, and Morris Halle. *The Sound Patterns of English*. New York: Harper, 1968.

Book by an Institutional or Organizational Author

Council of Biology Editors. *Scientific Style and Format: The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*. 6th. ed. Chicago: Cambridge UP, 1994.

Government Publications

National Aeronautics and Space Administration. *NASA Pocket Statistics*. Washington, DC: Office of Headquarters Operations, 1991.

Book with No Listed Author

Waterstone's Guide to Books. London: Waterstone, 1981.

Translation

Heisenberg, Werner. *The Physical Principles of the Quantum Theory*. Trans. Carl Eckart and Frank C. Hoyt. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1930.

Journal Articles

Entries for articles from periodicals, like books, have three main divisions, each ending with a period. The first part is the name of the author or authors. The second part is the title of the article, enclosed in quotation marks. The third part of the entry is the publication information, which begins with the name of the periodical. Underline or italicize the journal title, and capitalize all words except prepositions and articles that do not begin the title or follow a colon. Additional publication information, such as the volume number and the date of publication, follows the title and concludes with a colon, a space, the page numbers of the article, and a period. If an article is continued from its first page to a nonconsecutive page, give only the first page and (without a space) a + sign.

Article in a Journal Paginated by Annual Volume

Give the journal title (italicized or underlined) followed by a space, the volume number, another space, the year of publication (in parentheses), a colon, a space, and the page numbers of the article without the abbreviation *p.* or *pp.*

Nelson, Keith A., et al. "Optical Generation of Tunable Ultrasonic Waves." *Journal of Applied Physics* 53 (1982): 1144-49.

Pasternack, Robert F., and Peter J. Collins. "Resonance Light Scattering: A New Technique for Studying Chromophore Aggregation." *Science* 269 (1995): 935-9.

Article in a Journal Paginated by Issue

Add a period and the issue number (also in arabic numerals) to the volume number.

Allemang, John. "Social Studies in Gibberish." *Quarterly Review of Doublespeak* 20.1 (1993): 9-10.

Article in a Monthly or Bimonthly Periodical

If the journal is a monthly or bimonthly periodical, list the month and year of publication instead of the volume number.

Fallows, James. "Networking Technology." *Atlantic Monthly* July 1994: 34-36.

Article in a Daily, Weekly, or Biweekly Magazine or Newspaper

Include the year, month, and day.

Metcalf, Bob. "The Numbers Show How Slowly the Internet Runs Today." *Infoworld* 30 Sep. 1996: 34.

Unpublished Dissertation

Give the title of the dissertation in quotation marks. Then add *Diss.* and the name of the university, followed by the year.

Glazer, Frederick G. "Hierarchical Motion Detection." *Diss.* Univ. of Massachusetts, 1987.

Online Sources [corrected by WK]

One proposed, but not yet accepted, MLA style guideline (Harnack and Kleppinger, 1996) suggests the following format: the author's name; the full title of the document in quotation marks, if appropriate; the title of the journal or larger work if available underlined or in italics; the date of publication or last revision; [. . .] the date accessed in parentheses [followed by a period and the concluding word "Web." MLA no longer encourages use of URLs.]

Journal Published Only Online

Harnack, Andrew, and Gene Kleppinger. "Beyond the MLA Handbook: Documenting Electronic Sources on the Internet." *Kairos* 1.2 (1996): 12-22. (21 Sep. 1996). Web.

Document Available through the World Wide Web

Walker, Janice R. "MLA-Style Citations of Electronic Sources." Ver. 1.0, Rev. Apr. 1995. (21 Sep. 1996). Web.

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<http://ocw.mit.edu>

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