Modern Language Association (MLA) Documentation

MLA provides a standard method of academic documentation that is often used in the humanities (except history) and the fine arts. For more MLA help, use the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2009), 7th ed., or visit the Writing Center.

Each time you cite a source include both a parenthetical reference and a works cited entry.

Step 1: Parenthetical References
Place a parenthetical reference at the end of each sentence that includes any borrowed information that is not common knowledge. Cite both quotations and paraphrases.

Formatting: In parentheses, put the author's last name and the page number(s) on which the cited information appears. The period goes after the parentheses.

> **Ex**. Pirates' lives typically ended within two or three years "and often ended ignominiously at the end of a rope" (Cawthorne 12).

Remember to cite borrowed information even when you do not quote the source directly.

> **Ex**. Pirates were often hanged after just a few years of marauding at sea (Cawthorne 12).

If you include the author's name in the body of the sentence, you may omit it from the parenthetical reference.

> **Ex**. Nigel Cawthorne explains that pirates' lives typically ended within two or three years "and often ended ignominiously at the end of a rope" (12).

When the source has two authors, include both of the authors' last names in the citation.

> **Ex**. Counterfeits, bootlegs, and home-tapes are the three ways people pirate music (Chesterman and Lipman 88).

Exceptions: If the source does not have page numbers, omit them. If the source is a website that does not list an author, use the title of the webpage in quotes instead. If the source lists neither an author nor a webpage title, use the title of the website and *italicize* it instead.

Step 2: Works Cited Page (see example on reverse)
At the end of the paper, add a page entitled "Works Cited" where you list publication information about each source cited in your text.

Formatting: List entries, alphabetically, by author's last name. Double-space between each line on the page. Place the first line of each entry flush with the left margin and indent subsequent lines of that entry by ½ inch. *Italicize* the titles of major works such as books, websites, films, and journals. Use quotes for the titles of shorter works like articles, webpages, and short poems. In order to distinguish between types of resources, the medium of publication is now included in the publication information.
Exceptions: Some sources, especially electronic sources, may not list all the information included in a standard MLA citation. In that case, simply omit that part of the citation.

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Works Cited Example

Book. Author last name, First name. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, year of publication. Medium.

Book with 2 authors.

Print journal article. Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Journal Title*. volume.issue (month year): article page #s. Medium.

Article from a library database. Magazine or journal print publication info. *Database name*. Vendor name. Medium. Date accessed. um.

Newspaper or magazine published at least twice a month. Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Periodical Title* Date: page #s. Medium.

Part of an anthology or chapter in a collection of essays. Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Book Title*. Editor. Place of publication: Publisher, year of publication. page #s. Medium.

Personal or professional webpage. Author last name, First name. "Webpage Title." *Website Title*. Date published. Medium. Date accessed.

Works Cited

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Chesterman, John, and Andy Lipman. *The Electronic Pirates: DIY Crime of the Century*. London: Routledge, 1988. Print.

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