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Sam Houston State University*

## **MLA Style: How to Cite Sources** **7<sup>th</sup> Edition**

There are several different citation styles that you may use. This handout briefly explains how to cite sources using MLA (Modern Language Association) style. MLA style is frequently used for papers in the arts and humanities. However, other subjects may use it as well. If you are unsure of which style to use, ask your instructor.

Cite all sources that you quote, paraphrase or refer to when writing a paper. If not, you may be guilty of plagiarism as defined in section 5.32 of the university's Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. Sources should be cited in the text of your paper as well as at the end in a works cited list.

The following examples are simply provided as a guideline for citing sources using MLA style. You are ultimately responsible for the content and organization of your citations. A full explanation on how to cite sources using MLA style is available in the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#), 7th ed., available at the Library Reference Desk.

### **IN-TEXT CITATION**

When writing a paper, all sources should be cited in the text of the paper. At the end of the sentence(s) that you are quoting or paraphrasing include the author and the page number(s) in parentheses.

- Cite the author or editor's last name and page number(s) that you are referring to.
- If you refer to the author or editor's name in the text of your sentence, include only the page number(s) in parentheses.
- To cite an entire source, without referring to specific page numbers, cite only the author or editor's last name.
- If the source does not have page numbers, simply cite the author or editor's name.
- To quote something directly, remember to use quotation marks.
- Any of the following examples are acceptable formats:

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| <b>Author's name in citation</b> | "Desertions from the Confederate army reached its peak in 1862" (Ayers 358).                    |
| <b>Author's name in text</b>     | Ayers states that in 1862 the largest number of soldiers deserted the Confederate Army (358).   |
| <b>Author's name in citation</b> | Exports from Uganda to the United States have increased by over \$850,000 this year (Lacey A1). |

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| <b>Author's name in text</b>     | Lacey writes, "Uganda has seen its exports to the United States increase from a minuscule \$32,000 in 2002 to \$909,000 in the first nine months of this year" (A1). |
| <b>Author's name in citation</b> | One study concluded that North Carolina principals see no negative impact with regards to commercialism in schools (Di Bona et al. 56).                              |
| <b>Author's name in text</b>     | Di Bona et al. concluded that North Carolina principals see no negative impact with regards to commercialism in schools (56).  |
| <b>Author's name in citation</b> | "...officers are significantly more likely to use higher levels of force when encountering criminal suspects in high-crime areas..." (Terrill and Reisig 307-308).   |
| <b>Author's name in text</b>     | Terrill and Reisig find that in neighborhoods with higher crime rates, police officers often use higher force when confronting suspects (307-308).                   |

### **WORKS CITED LIST**

At the end of your paper, include a works cited list. This list documents all sources used in your paper.

- Double space the works cited list, within and between citations.
- Arrange the list alphabetically by author or editor. If no author or editor is given, arrange by title of source.
- If a citation takes up more than one line, indent each other line by a half an inch.
- If a citation has two authors or editors, list them how they appear on the title page.
- If a citation has more than three authors or editors, you may use the first author's name and add "et al."
- MLA style *italicizes* titles of books and periodicals, and names of databases.
- Capitalize all major words of a title.
- Titles of articles or chapters should be entered in quotation marks.
- Provide a volume number for journal articles and an issue number if necessary.
- Do not give volume or issue numbers for magazine or newspaper articles.
- If the article was retrieved online and there are no page numbers, use n. pag.
- Citations to articles or chapters should include page numbers.
- If an article appears on discontinuous pages (i.e., an article starts on page one then skips to page six), simply cite the first page number and add a plus (+) sign to note that the article continues.
- For place of publication (in the US or foreign), only list the city.
- When citing electronic resources, give the URL only when your professor requires it or you think the reader can't find the source with the rest of the information provided.
- Include the medium of the publication consulted.
- The following are examples to commonly cited types of items:

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| <b>General format for a book</b>             | Author's last name, Author's first name. <i>Title of Book</i> . City or foreign country of publication: Publisher, year. Print.  |
| <b>General format for an article</b>         | Author's last name, Author's first name. "Title of the Article." <i>Title of the Periodical</i><br>Publication information. Print.   |
| <b>Book with one author</b>                  | Ayers, Edward L. <i>In the Presence of Mine Enemies: War In the Heart of America, 1859-1863</i> . New York: Norton, 2003. Print.   |
| <b>Book with 2-3 authors</b>                 | Hansten, Ruth I., Marilyn J. Washburn, and Virginia Kenyon. <i>Home Care Nursing Delegation Skills: A Handbook for Practice</i> . Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen, 1999. Print.        |
| <b>Book with more than 3 authors</b>         | Greenough, Sarah, et al. <i>Modern Art and America: Alfred Stieglitz and His New York Galleries</i> . Boston: Bulfinch, 2001. Print.   |
| <b>Book with an editor</b>                   | Cowan, Jon, ed. <i>Modern Spain: A Documentary History</i> . Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2003. Print.   |
| <b>Book with a corporate author</b>          | American Medical Association. <i>Caring for the Country: A History and Celebration of the First 150 Years of the American Medical Association</i> . Chicago: AMA, 1997. Print. |
| <b>Book with an author and editor</b>        | Dickens, Charles. <i>Great Expectations</i> . Ed. Janice Carlisle. Boston: St. Martin's, 1996. Print.  |
| <b>Book with an edition</b>                  | Bongar, Bruce. <i>The Suicidal Patient: Clinical and Legal Standards of Care</i> . 2nd ed. DC: APA, 2002. Print.   |
| <b>Multivolume book</b>                      | Phillips, Roger, and Martyn Rix. <i>The Botanical Garden</i> . 2 vols. Buffalo: Firefly, 2002. Print.  |
| <b>English translation of a book</b>         | Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> . Trans. Gregory Rabassa. New York: Harper, 1970. Print.   |
| <b>Illustrated Book or Graphic Narrative</b> | Baum, L. Frank. <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> . Introd. Regina Barreca. Illus. W.W. Denslow. New York: Signet-Penguin, 2006. Print.  |
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| <b>Article or chapter in an edited book</b>   | Paauwe, Jaap, and Philip Dewe. "Organizational Structure of Multinational Corporations: Theories and Models." <i>International Human Resource Management: An Integrated Approach</i> . Ed. Anne-Wil Harzing and Joris Van Ruysseveldt. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 1995. 51-74. Print.             |
| <b>Work in an anthology</b>   | Garvey, Marcus. "The Future As I See It." <i>The Norton Anthology of African American Literature</i> . Ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Nellie Y. McKay. New York: Norton, 1997. 977-80. Print.   |
| <b>Excerpt from an article, reprinted in an anthology</b>   | McDermott, John V. "Julian's Journey Into Hell: Flannery O'Connor's Allegory of Pride." <i>Mississippi Quarterly: A Journal of Southern Culture</i> 28 (1975): 171-179. Rpt. in <i>Contemporary Literary Criticism</i> . Ed. Deborah Schmidt. Vol. 104. Detroit: Gale, 1998. 145-48. Print. |
| <b>Excerpt from a book, reprinted in an anthology</b>   | Rapone, Anita. "The Body is the Role: Sylvia Plath." <i>Radical Feminism</i> . Ed. Anne Koedt, Ellen Levine, and Anita Rapone. New York: Quadrangle, 1973. Rpt. in <i>Poetry Criticism</i> . Ed. Robyn V. Young. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale, 1991. 393-95. Print.                                |
| <b>Signed article in a multi-volume encyclopedia with edition information</b>   | Harnish, David. "Bali." <i>The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music</i> . Ed. Terry E. Miller and Sean Williams. 3rd ed. Vol. 4. New York: Garland, 1998. Print.   |
| <b>Signed article in an encyclopedia without edition information</b>  | Harnish, David. "Bali." <i>The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music</i> . Ed. Terry E. Miller and Sean Williams. New York: Garland, 1998. Print.   |
| <b>Unsigned article in a multi-volume encyclopedia that is regularly reprinted and the publication year is considered the edition</b> | "Television." <i>The World Book Encyclopedia</i> . 2000 ed. Vol. 19. Chicago: World Book. Print.  |
| <b>Unsigned article in an encyclopedia without edition information</b>  | "Television." <i>The World Book Encyclopedia</i> . Chicago: World Book, 2000. Print.  |
| <b>Review of a book</b>   |   |

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| <b>(article is titled)</b>   | Daniels, Rebecca. "Rethinking Englishness, Rethinking Modernity." Rev. of <i>English Art, 1860-1914: Modern Artists and Identity</i> , ed. David Peters Corbett and Lara Perry. <i>Oxford Art Journal</i> 26.1 (2003): 158-61. Print. |
| <b>Review of a book (article is untitled)</b>  | Janc, John J. Rev. of <i>Teachers in Action: Tasks for In-Service Language Teacher Education and Development</i> , by James Peter. <i>The Modern Language Journal</i> 87 (2003): 619-20. Print.                                       |
| <b>Article from a journal with continuous pagination</b>                                       | Terrill, William, and Michael D. Reisig. "Neighborhood Context and Police Use of Force." <i>Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency</i> 40 (2003): 291-321. Print.   |
| <b>Article from a journal with continuous pagination – Retrieved from a database</b>           | Fishman, Sarah. "Grand Delusions: The Unintended Consequences of Vichy France's Prisoner of War Propaganda." <i>Journal of Contemporary History</i> 26 (1991): 229-54. <i>JSTOR</i> . Web. 3 Dec. 2006                                |
| <b>Article from a journal that paginates each issue separately</b>                             | Woods, Tryon P. "Globalizing Social Violence: Race, Gender, and the Spatial Politics of Crisis." <i>American Studies</i> 43.1 (2002): 127-53. Print.  |
| <b>Article from a journal that paginates each issue separately – Retrieved from a database</b> | Di Bona, Joseph, et al. "Commercialism in North Carolina High Schools: A Survey of Principals' Perceptions." <i>Peabody Journal of Education</i> 78.2 (2003): 41-62. <i>EBSCOhost EJS</i> . Web. 3 Dec. 2006                          |
| <b>Article from a magazine published weekly or every 2 weeks</b>                               | Hirsh, Michael. "Our New Civil War." <i>Newsweek</i> 12 May 2003: 31-34. Print.   |
| <b>Article from a magazine published weekly or every 2 weeks – Retrieved from a database</b>   | Crook, Clive. "A Cruel Sea of Capital." <i>Economist</i> 5 May 2003: 3+. <i>Business Source Premier</i> . Web. 3 Dec. 2006.   |
| <b>Article from a magazine published monthly or every 2 months</b>                             | Perry, Patrick. "Keeping Kids Fit for Life." <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> July-Aug. 2003: 20+. Print.   |
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| <b>Article from a magazine published monthly or every 2 months – Retrieved from a database</b> | Graves, John. "The old country." <i>Texas Monthly</i> Apr. 2003: 102+. <i>Wilson Web</i> . Web. 10 Dec. 2006.   |
| <b>Article from a newspaper</b>  | Lacey, Marc. "U.S. Trade Law Gives Africa Hope and Hard Jobs." <i>New York Times</i> 14 Nov. 2003, late ed.: A1+. Print.                                    |
| <b>Article from a newspaper – Retrieved from a database</b>                                    | Hopper, Leigh. "West Nile Virus Cases in Area Rise to Seven." <i>Houston Chronicle</i> 7 Aug. 2003, 3 star ed.: A21. <i>LexisNexis</i> . Web. 10 Dec. 2006. |
| <b>ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) Document (on microfiche)</b>                | Author(s). "Title of the Document." (Date of publication): Page Numbers. Microform. Document number.  |

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| <b>ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) Document – Retrieved from a database</b> | Author(s). "Title of the Digest." (Date of publication): inclusive page numbers. <i>Name of database</i> . Document #. Web. Date accessed. <URL>.                                       |
| <b>Government Document</b>  | United States. Cong. House. 112th Cong., 2nd Sess. HR 274. Washington: GPO, 2009.<br><br>Print.   |
| <b>Government Document – Retrieved from online</b>  | United States. Central Intelligence Agency. <i>The World Factbook 2009</i> . Washington: GPO, 9 Aug. 2003. Web. 4 Mar. 2009.  |
| <b>Government Website</b>   | United States. Department of Labor. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "Deck Barge Safety." <i>Occupational Safety and Health Administration</i> . 2009. Web. 26 July 2009. |

### **TIPS TO REMEMBER**

- Always ask your instructor which citation style you should use and if he/she has any specific requirements for citing sources.
- For complete rules on using MLA style, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed., available at the Library Reference Desk.
- The Library maintains links on it's website to show examples of how to cite sources from different style manuals: <http://library.shsu.edu/research/citationguides.php>
- For help, please visit the Library Reference Desk or call (936) 294-1599 or 1-866-NGL-INFO (toll-free).
- In-depth assistance is provided by the Writing Center. The website address is: <http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/>. Call (936) 294-3680 or visit them in the Farrington Building, room # 111.

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