A Guide to MLA Citation for CSN’s Resources

This guide is an effort to assist CSN students in formatting citations in all disciplines based on the Seventh Edition of the MLA Handbook. Always check with your instructors to make sure these guidelines meet their requirements. Revised August 2009.

I. EXAMPLES FOR A “WORKS CITED” LIST

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Many electronic sources do not supply all desired information, so while aiming for comprehensiveness, you may have to settle for citing whatever information is available. According to the Handbook, “MLA style is flexible, and sometimes you must improvise to record features not anticipated by the handbook” (section 5.6.1).

WWW (World Wide Web) Sites
(MLA Handbook section 5.6.2)

A citation for most works on the Web usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Name of the author. If no author is listed, begin with the title of the work (see step 2)
2. Title of the work in quotation marks
3. Title of the overall Web site in italics
4. Version or edition used, if available
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available. N.p.
6. Date of publication; if no date is available, use n.d.
7. Medium of publication (Web)
8. Date of access


ONLINE DATABASES

(MLA Handbook section 5.6.4)

Online databases such as Academic Search Premier, Proquest and Literature Resource Center provide access to information from magazines, journals, newspapers and other sources.

Journal, Scholarly or Peer-Reviewed Article from an Online Database

(MLA Handbook sections 5.4.1, 5.4.2 & 5.6.4)

A citation for most scholarly or peer-reviewed journal articles from an online database usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Author's name. For more than one author, give their names in the same order as on the title page of the article
2. Title of the article in quotation marks, with a period within the quotes
3. Name of the journal in italics
4. Volume and issue number (if available), with a period between them
5. Year of publication in parenthesis
6. Inclusive pages
7. Title of the database in italics
8. Medium of publication consulted (Web)
9. Date of access


Magazine Article from an Online Database

(MLA Handbook sections 5.4.1, 5.4.6 & 5.6.4)

A citation for most magazine articles from an online database usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Author's name. For more than one author, give their names in the same order as on the title page of the article
2. Title of the article in quotation marks, with a period within the quotes
3. Name of the magazine in italics
4. Date of the magazine. Do not give the volume and issue numbers, even if they are listed
5. Inclusive pages
6. Title of the database in italics
7. Medium of publication consulted (Web)
8. Date of access


Newspaper Article from an Online Database

(MLA Handbook sections 5.4.1, 5.4.5 & 5.6.4)

A citation for most newspaper articles from an online database usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Author's name. For more than one author, give their names in the same order as on the title page of the article
2. Title of the article in quotation marks, with a period within the quotes
3. Name of the newspaper in italics, omitting any introductory article like “The.” If the city of publication is not included in the name of a locally published newspaper, add the city in square brackets, not italicized, after the name
4. Date of the newspaper
5. Inclusive pages. For sections labeled with letters, the letter is part of the page number
6. Title of the database in italics
7. Medium of publication consulted (Web)
8. Date of access

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ADDITIONAL DATABASES and ONLINE RESOURCES

CQ Researcher Online

Note: In the examples above, the PDF version includes the page numbers, while the HTML version does not.

Issues and Controversies On File Database

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center Database

Literature Resource Center Database

NetLibrary Electronic Book: Single Author

NetLibrary Electronic Book: Edited Work (Includes Anthologies)

College Library Services- get the facts!
**Streaming Video (Web)**

*(MLA Handbook sections 5.6.2d & 5.7.3)*

Videos viewed on the Web may have originally appeared in another medium (i.e. television). To document sources such as these, begin the entry by following the recommendations in section 5.7 of the *MLA Handbook*. Conclude the entry with the following items:

1. Title of database or Web site (italicized)
2. Medium of publication consulted (Web)
3. Date of access


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**PRINT SOURCES**

**NEWSPAPER**

*(MLA Handbook sections 5.4.1 & 5.4.5)*

A citation for most print newspaper articles usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Author’s name
2. Title of the article in quotation marks, with a period within the quotes
3. Name of the newspaper in italics, omitting any introductory article like “The.” If the city of publication is not included in the name of a locally published newspaper, add the city in square brackets, not italicized, after the name
4. Date of the newspaper
5. Inclusive pages. If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, write only the first page number and a plus sign. For sections labeled with letters, the letter is part of the page number
6. Medium of publication consulted (Print)

**Signed article**


**Unsigned article**


**MAGAZINE**

*(MLA Handbook sections 5.4.1 & 5.4.6)*

A citation for most print magazine articles usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Author’s name. For more than one author, give their names in the same order as on the title page of the article
2. Title of the article in quotation marks, with a period within the quotes
3. Name of the magazine in italics
4. Date of the magazine. Do not give the volume and issue numbers, even if they are listed
5. Inclusive pages
6. Medium of publication consulted (Print)
Weekly


Monthly


Bimonthly


SCHOLARLY JOURNAL
*(MLA Handbook sections 5.4.1 & 5.4.2)*

A citation for most print scholarly or peer-reviewed journal articles usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Author’s name. For more than one author, give their names in the same order as on the title page of the article
2. Title of the article in quotation marks, with a period within the quotes
3. Name of the journal in italics
4. Volume and issue number (if available), with a period between them
5. Year of publication in parenthesis
6. Inclusive pages
7. Medium of publication consulted (Print)


BOOK
*(MLA Handbook sections 5.5.1, 5.5.2 & 5.5.4)*

A citation for most print books usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Name of the author, editor, or translator of the book. If no author is listed, begin with the title of the book (see step 2)
2. Title of the book in italics
3. Edition used (if available)
4. City of publication, name of the publisher, and year of publication
5. Medium of publication (Print)

One author


Two or three authors


More than three authors

**A Work in an Anthology or Edited Book (Essay, Short Story, Poem, etc.)**
(*MLA Handbook* section 5.5.1 & 5.5.6)

A citation for an essay, short story, poem or another work that appears within an anthology or some other book collection, usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Author of the essay, short story, poem or other piece. If no author is listed, begin with the title of the piece
2. Title of the essay, short story, poem or other piece in quotes
3. Title of the anthology in italics
4. Name of the editor, translator, or compiler of the book being cited, preceded by the abbreviation “Ed.,” “Trans.,” “Comp.,” etc.
5. City of publication, name of the publisher, and year of publication
6. Inclusive page numbers of the cited piece
7. Medium of publication (Print)


**Article in a Reference Book**
(*MLA Handbook* sections 5.5.6 & 5.5.7)

A citation for an article in a reference book is similar to that for a work in an anthology or edited book, and usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Author of the article or entry. If no author is listed, begin with the title of the article or entry
2. Title of the article or entry in quotes
3. Title of the reference book in italics
4. Year of publication
5. Inclusive page numbers of the cited piece
6. Medium of publication (Print)

**Note:** When citing widely used reference books, especially those that frequently appear in new editions, do not give full publication information. List only the edition, the year of publication, and the medium of publication consulted. When citing specialized reference works however, give full publication information, omitting inclusive page numbers if the book is arranged alphabetically.


**Essay from Opposing Viewpoints Series**
Essay from Taking Sides


MISCELLANEOUS

**DVDs**

*Dimming the Sun*. Dir. Duncan Copp. Nova/WGBH and BBC, 2006. DVD.


**Interviews – Personal**

(MLA Handbook section 5.7.7)

A citation for most personal interviews usually contains the following components, in sequence:

1. Name of the person interviewed
2. The kind of interview (personal interview, telephone interview)
3. The date (day, month, and year)


Smith, Mary. Telephone interview. 21 Feb. 2009.

II. CITING SOURCES IN THE TEXT – PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

Whenever you directly quote or paraphrase material from your sources, you must provide a brief parenthetical citation within the text of your paper. These parenthetical citations must clearly point to specific sources in your “Works Cited” list. Parenthetical citations will typically consist of two elements:

1. Author’s last name
2. Page number

Sample Direct Quotation:

The appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court “was critically important to African Americans, as the nation’s racial sensibilities underwent a radical, at times violent, transformation during the civil rights movement” (Johnson 6).

The parenthetical citation above “(Johnson 6)” indicates that the quotation comes from page 6 of a work by Johnson. Readers can find the complete citation on the “Works Cited” page at the end of your paper:

**Works Cited**

However, if you include the author’s name in the sentence with the quotation, list only the page number in the parenthetical citation – it is not necessary to repeat the author’s name.

For example:

According to Johnson, the appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court “was critically important to African Americans, as the nation’s racial sensibilities underwent a radical, at times violent, transformation during the civil rights movement” (6).

Long Quotations

Long quotations are those that are longer than four typed lines in a free-standing block of typewritten text. Omit the quotation marks and start the quotation on a new line indenting one inch from the left margin and double-spacing. In long quotations, the closing punctuation mark comes before the parenthetical citation. If quoting two or more paragraphs, indent the first line of each paragraph an additional quarter inch.

Sample Long Quotation:

Orr’s situation is described below:

There was only one catch and that was Catch-22, which specified the concern for one’s own safety in the face of dangers that were real and immediate was the process of a rational mind…Orr would be crazy to fly more missions and sane if he didn’t, but if he was sane he had to fly them. If he flew them, he was crazy and didn’t have to; but if he didn’t want to he was sane and had to. (Heller 11)

Citing an Entire Work (Including Works with No Page Numbers)

(MLA Handbook section 6.4.1)

When directly quoting or paraphrasing from a source that has no page numbers – such as a web site or article from an online database – no number can be given in the parenthetical citation. In this case, it is often preferable to include in the text, rather than in a parenthetical citation, the name of the person (author, editor, performer, etc.), or title if no author is listed, that begins the corresponding entry in the “Works Cited” list.

Below is a sample direct quote from a web site with no page numbering. Note that the author – Bressert – is identified in the text preceding the actual quote; therefore, no parenthetical citation is necessary.

As stated by Bressert, the causes of bipolar disorder are largely biological, and “may involve neurotransmitters like noreINEphrine, serotonin and probably many others.”

Works Cited

III. WORKS CITED PAGE

This list should be alphabetized by authors' last names (or first word in the title if no author is available). Each source you cite in your essay must appear in the works cited list. This list is used to help a reader locate your sources. Double-space after the heading. The second line of each entry is indented one-half inch, and all references are double-spaced.

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Works Cited


   Print.

*Dimming the Sun.* Dir. Duncan Copp. Nova/WGBH and BBC, 2006. DVD.


   17 June 2009.


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