

## CITING SOURCES IN MLA FORMAT\*

MLA format is the Modern Language Association's format for citing sources used in a paper. While the best way to familiarize yourself with the proper format is to purchase an MLA style manual, this sheet provides some basic information about in-text citations and works cited lists. (Unlike a bibliography, a works cited list only includes sources cited in the text.)

### Using In-text Citations

#### 1. Single author

When citing a source in the text of your paper, follow the quote or paraphrase with the author's last name and the page number in parentheses.

"Though the number of lion attacks on humans is low, the rate of increase of attacks since the 1960s is cause for serious concern" (Rychnovsky 43).

However, if you state the author's name in a signal phrase introducing the quote, you do not need to state the author's name in parentheses.

Turback claims that, "regulated sport hunting has never driven any wild species into extinction" (74).

#### 2. Two or more works by the same author

If using multiple works by the same author, the parenthetical citation must include an abbreviated form of the title of the work in quotation marks followed by the page number. ("Laugh" 88)

#### 3. More than one author

If citing a source that has two or three authors, include all names in the parentheses. (Howard and Thompson 54)

If the source you are citing has four or more authors, cite the name of only one author followed by "et al." and the page number. (Johnson et al. 55)

### Preparing a Works Cited List (Alphabetize list according to the first word in each reference.)

#### 1. Basic format for a book

Include the author (or authors), title (in italics or underlined), city of publication, publisher, and year. If the citation goes beyond the first line, indent the second line.

Potok, Chaim. *My Name is Asher Lev*. New York: Anchor, 2003.

#### 2. Anthologies

When citing an anthology with an editor whose name appears on the title page, begin the citation with the name of the editor, followed by "ed." Then list the title, city, publisher, and date.

Lopate, Phillip, ed. *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present*. New York: Anchor-Doubleday, 1994.

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### 3. Articles in anthologies

To cite one selection from an anthology, begin with the name of the author of the piece itself, followed by the title in quotation marks. Then list the name of the anthology and the names of editors. The page numbers of the selection are placed at the end of the citation:

Franco, Veronica. "To the Painter Jacopo Tintoretto." *Poems and Selected Letters*. Ed. and trans. Ann Rosalind Jones and Margaret F. Rosenthal. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1998. 35-37.

### 4. Scholarly journals

Cite information for journal articles in the following order:

Author, title (in quotation marks), name of journal (underlined or italicized), volume, issue (if relevant, following the volume number and a period), year (in parentheses), page numbers.

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3 (1981): 77-80.

### 4. Magazines

If the magazine is published every week or every two weeks, give the complete date in the following format: "date month year." If it is published less frequently, give the month or months and year. Do not include the volume or issue number, even if they are listed. If the article is printed on non-consecutive pages, give only the first page number and a plus sign.

Mehta, Pratap Bhanu. "Exploding Myths." *New Republic* 6 June 1998: 17-19.

### 5. Newspapers

If the city is not included in the title of a locally published paper, add it in brackets after the name: "*Star-Ledger* [Newark]." Do not include the volume or issue number, even if they are listed. Specify the edition and section of the newspaper. If the article is printed on non-consecutive pages, give only the first page number and a plus sign.

Jeromack, Paul. "This Once, a David of the Art World Does Goliath a Favor." *New York Times* 13 July 2002, New England ed.: A13+.

### 6. Electronic sources

The organization of web sites varies greatly. Include as much of the following information as is available: name of author, title of article, date of electronic publication or last update, name of web site or online journal, name of site editor, date of print publication (if relevant), name of any organization that sponsors the site, date the page was accessed, and, finally, the url:

Zeki, Semir. "Artistic Creativity and the Brain." *Science* 6 July 2001: 51-52. *Science Magazine*. 2002. Amer. Assn. for the Advancement of Science. 24 Sept. 2002. <<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/293/5527/51>>.

"Fresco Painting." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. 2002. Encyclopedia Britannica. 8 May 2002 <<http://search.eb.com>>.

\* Information taken from Gibaldi, Joseph, ed. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2003.

(See also <http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/humanities/english.html> or *A Writer's Reference*, by Diana Hacker, Pp. 348-368.)