

Research Papers: Basic Rules for Writing Citations

Main information for print resources:

Author. *Title of work*. City of publication: Publisher, year of publication. Print.

Main information for electronic resources:

Author. "Article title." *Original source of article*. Date of original source (day month year): page numbers.

Product name. Web. Date of visit to site (day month year). <URL of specific article>. (Add URL only if required by Instructor)

MLA Bibliographic Style Based on MLA Handbook 7th Edition

Double space all entries and list in alphabetical order by the first word, ignoring initial words **a**, **an**, or **the**. Three main divisions--author, title, and publication information--are followed by a period and two spaces. Titles are italicized. If the entry continues for more than one line, indent the following lines. Medium is last, with Print, Web, Television, Film, Lecture, or Interview as choices.

1. BOOKS

One author

Tan, Amy. *Saving Fish from Drowning*. New York: Putnam, 2005. Print.

Two or three authors

Mortenson, Greg, and David Oliver Relin. *Three Cups of Tea*. New York: Penguin Books, 2006. Print.

Four or more authors

Spiller, Robert, et al. *Literary History of the United States*. New York: Macmillan, 1990. Print.

Corporate author

United States Capitol Society. *We, the People: The Story of the United States Capitol*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Soc., 2005. Print.

No author named

Ground Zero: 25 Stories from Young Reporters Who Were There. New York: Thunder's Mouth Press, 2002. Print.

Article or chapter in an anthology

Wright, Richard. "I Have Seen Black Hands." *The Depression and New Deal: A History in Documents*. McElvaine, Robert S. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000: 83-85. Print.

Anthology or collection

Eleveld, Mark, ed. *The Spoken Word Revolution: Slam, Hip Hop & the Poetry of a New Generation*. Naperville, Illinois: Sourcebooks, Inc., 2003. Print.

2. NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND OTHER SOURCES

Magazine, weekly, biweekly, or monthly

Walsh, Bryan. "America's Food Crisis and How to Fix It." *Time* 31 Aug. 2009: 30-37. Print.

Magazine article (no author)

"How Do I Cook for Weight Loss?" *Health* May 2009:20. Print.

Newspaper article

Strout, Richard L. "Occupation by Suburbanization." *Christian Science Monitor* 20 Sept. 2009: 11-14. Print.

Reference book (encyclopedia) article

Burton, Donald J. "Chlorine." *Encyclopedia Americana*. 1997. Print.

Reference book (encyclopedia), no author

"Chromosome." *Encyclopedia Americana*. 1997. Print.

Government publication

Office of the Oregon Secretary of State. *Oregon Blue Book: Almanac & Fact Book 2009-2010*. Salem, Oregon: Office of the Oregon Secretary of State, 2009. Print.

Radio or television program

“Book Lust with Nancy Pearl Featuring M.T. Anderson.” *Book Lust with Nancy Pearl*. Channel 21, Seattle. 12 March 2009. Television.

Film

Like Water for Chocolate. Dir. Alfonso Arau. Miramez, 1993. Film.

Advertisement

Credo Mobile. Advertisement. *The Nation* 16 May 1996: 27. Print.

Someone you interviewed

Kitzhaber, John. Personal interview. 15 Nov. 2000.

Email

Schmidt, Jennifer. “Monday greetings.” Email to Justin Jones about report on global warming. 29 May 2001. Email.

3. ELECTRONIC SOURCES

When citing from the Internet the URL is not included, unless it is required by the instructor.

Webpage with URL

Siler, Greg MD. “Our Mission: Single-Payer National Health Insurance.” *Physiciansfor a National Health Program*. Web. 20 Sept. 2009. <<http://www.pnhp.org/>>.

Webpage without URL

“Amazon Kindle 2: Pros and Cons.” *Compare E-Book Readers: A Guide to Portable Online Reading Devices*. Web. 21 Sept. 2009.

Article in an online reference database

Anthes, Richard A. “Global Warming.” *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*. Grolier, Inc., 2009. Web. 10 Sept. 2009.

Magazine article from an online database

Hutson, Matthew. “Bugging Out: the Pesky Side Effects of Ritalin.” *Psychology Today*. Sept-Oct 2006: 33. InfoTrac. Web. 21 Sept. 2009.

Newspaper article from an online database

Gonzalez, David. “Under One Roof: Legal and Illegal.” *New York Times Up Front*. Web. 21 Sept. 2009.

4. MLA FORMAT FOR INTERNAL CITATIONS

Locate in a natural pause, or at the end of a sentence.

When you omit the author's name in your sentence:

One researcher has found that dreams move backward in time as the night progresses (Dement 71).

When you mention the author's name in your sentence:

Tannen has argued this point (178-85).

When you cite more than one work by the same author:

One current theory emphasizes the principle that dreams express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes, “Sleep” 184). But investigation shows that young children's dreams are “rather simple and unemotional” (Foulkes, “Dreams” 78).

When the work has two or three authors:

Psychologists hold that no two children are alike (Gesell and Ilg 68).

When the work has no author, begin with the word by which the title is alphabetized in the Works Cited:

Random testing for use of steroids by athletes is facing strong opposition by owners of several of these teams (“Steroids” 22).

For electronic internal citations:

Omit page numbers. When author or signal word(s) are already in the document, no citation is needed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition)*, R 808 MLA, in your high school library.