

# MLA Citation Style

## Subject Research Guide

Contained within this document are selected resources at the Monmouth University Library, useful for learning about MLA citation style. For more help, call the reference desk at 732.571.3438.

### MLA Citation Style Sample Sheet (for Books, Articles, and Electronic Documents)

There are several different styles for use in documenting the sources you use in writing a research paper. Check with your instructor to be sure that the style you are using is acceptable. The following is from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. To document other types of sources, consult the Handbook at the Ref. Desk (Ref. LB 2369 .G53 2003).

In MLA documentation style, you acknowledge your sources by keying brief parenthetical citations in your text to an alphabetical list of works that appears at the end of the paper. The parenthetical citation that concludes the following sentence is typical of MLA style:

Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras, who lived in the sixth century BC (Marcuse 197).

The citation "(Marcuse 197)" tells readers that the information in the sentence was derived from page 197 of a work by an author named Marcuse.

If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the *works-cited* list, where, under the name Marcuse, they would find the following information:

Marcuse, Sibyl. A Survey of Musical Instruments. New York: Harper, 1975.

If more than one work by an author is in the list of works cited, a shortened version of the title is given: "(Marcuse, Survey 197)."

**Note:** The title of a book or journal can be either underlined or *italicized*, with significant words capitalized. Whichever you choose, be consistent throughout.

## \*Rule for all MLA Citations\*

If your citation is longer than one line, as is typical, use a ½ hanging indent for the second line and all subsequent lines.

### Book by a Single Author

Author's Last name, First name (if any). Title of the Book. City of publication: Publisher, Year.

Wilson, Frank R. The Hand: How Its Use Shapes the Brain, Language, and Human Culture. New York: Pantheon, 1998.

### Book by Two or More Authors

Author's Last name, First name, and Author's First name Last name. Title of Book. City of publication: Publisher, Year.

Eggins, Suzanne and Diane Slade. Analyzing Casual Conversation. London: Cassell, 1997.

### Article in an Encyclopedia or Dictionary

Last name, First name (if any). "Title of Article or Entry." Title of Encyclopedia or Dictionary. Edition. Year.

Mohanty, Jitendra M. "Indian Philosophy." The New Encyclopedia or Britannica: Macropaedia. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. 1987.

### Article in a Reference Book

Last name, First name (if any). "Title of Article or Entry." Title of Reference Book. Name of Editor (if any). Edition. Number of volumes. City of publication: Publisher, Year.

Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." Encyclopedia of Bioethics. Ed. Warren T.Reich. Rev. ed. 5 vols. New York: Macmillan-Simon, 1995.

## Article in a Scholarly Journal

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume #.Issue #(Year): Page numbers.

Hallin, Daniel C. "Sound Bite News: Television Coverage of Elections, 1968-1998." Journal of Communication 42.2 (1992): 5-24.

## Article in a Magazine (Monthly/Bimonthly/Quarterly)

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." Title of Magazine Month Year: Page numbers.

Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly. "The Creative Personality." Psychology Today July-Aug. 1996: 36-40.

## Article in a Magazine (Weekly/Biweekly)

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." Title of Magazine Day Month Year: Page numbers.

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

## Article in a Newspaper

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." Name of Newspaper Day Month Year, Edition: Page number.

Trachtenberg, Jeffrey A. "What's in a Movie Soundtrack? Catchy Tune and Big Business." Wall Street Journal 1 Apr. 1994, eastern ed.: B1+.

## Publication from an Online Service (Database)

Author's Last name, First name (if any). Publication information for the printed source (article, book, etc.). Title of the Database. Name of Service. Library, City, State. Date of Access <Internet address>.

Kidd, Rocky. "Four Spiritual Laws." Sojourners July 1999: 53. Academic Search Premier. EBSCOhost. Monmouth U. Lib., West Long Branch, New Jersey. 14 Oct. 2005.

**Note:** When a URL contains meaningless characters, do not include the URL for this source (e.g. <http://web5.epnet.com/search.asp?ug=sid+239DFA3A%...>).

Peters, Lorraine. "The American Civil War." Civil War History 51.2 (2005): 224-226. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Monmouth U Lib., West Long Branch, NJ. 2 Feb. 2006.

**Note:** You may use the URL of the home page of the database service, if you know it.

Brush, Peter. "Vietnam". Harrisburg Apr. 2006: 10-11. Research Library, ProQuest. Monmouth U Lib., West Long Branch, NJ. 2 Feb. 2006  
<<http://proquest.umi.com>>.

## Web Site (Online Scholarly Project or Information Database)

Title of Project or Database. Name of Editor (if any). Date of last update. Name of Sponsoring Organization (if any). Date of access <Internet address>.

Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willet. June 1998. Indiana U. 26 June 1998 <<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>>.

## Article from an Independent Online Magazine/Scholarly Journal Web Site

Information for journal/magazine article. Database name (if any). Date of Access <Internet Address>.

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." Postmodern Culture. 10.3 (2000). Project Muse. 20 May 2002  
<<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/pmc/v010/10.3chan.html>>.

Brooks, David. "The Culture of Martyrdom." Atlantic Online. June 2002. 24 Sept. 2002 <<http://theatlantic.com/issues/2002/06/brooks.htm>>.

## Web Site (Professional or Personal)

Author's Last name, First name (if any). Title of the Site or Home Page (in the case of a personal page). Date of last update. Name of Sponsoring Organization (if any). Date of access <Internet address>.

Dawe, James. Jane Austen Page. 15 Sept. 1998.

<<http://nyquist.ee.ualberta.ca/~dawe/austen.html>>.

## Publication from a CD-ROM

Author's Last name, First name (if any). Publication information for the printed source (article, book, etc.). Title of the Database. CD-ROM. Name of Vendor (if known). Publication Date (if known).

Coates, Steve. "Et Tu, Cybernetica Machina User?" New York Times 28 Oct.

1996, late ed.: D4. New York Times Ondisc. CD-ROM. UMI-Proquest. Feb. 1998.

## Need more help?

- Access the Monmouth University Library Page at <http://library.monmouth.edu/>
- Access the Research Help Page at <http://library.monmouth.edu/help/help.php>
- Use our Ask-a-Librarian service at <http://library.monmouth.edu/help/ask.php>
- See the Library's hours at <http://library.monmouth.edu/about/about.php#hours>
- Call the reference desk at 732.571.3438.

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