



# LSC-O's Guide to MLA Citation Style

Modern Language Association (MLA) style is used for academic writing in LSC-O courses such as English Composition, & Literature, Languages, Philosophy, Speech, Drama, Art, Music & History. For more details, please refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.*, available at the Library Help Desk. Read these MLA citation basics:

- 1. Authors:** Start all citations with author names, same order as given in the source. First author name is given last name, first. Names that follow are in normal order. Use commas between names. Place "and" before the final name, for two or more authors. See book examples, next page, for more authors, and examples for editors.
- 2. Titles:** Follow authors with title and subtitle (if any) of books or articles. Capitalize all words that start the title and subtitle, and all other words EXCEPT articles (a, an, the), conjunctions (and, or, not, but, yet), and prepositions (of, in, to, from, near, above, about, etc.). When citing article titles, put the title in "quotes," and follow it with the title of the periodical or book, as the case may be, in *italics*. See examples.
- 3. Editions:** When citing books, give an edition number if it is more than the first edition: 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., etc.
- 4. Publication info:** For books give as City: Publisher, year. For journals give volume.issue (year), numbers only, year in parentheses. For magazines and newspapers give only the date as day Month year or Month year or Month-Month year, as the case may be. Abbreviate months with more than four letters as follows: Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. Dates of access for online books and articles also follow these rules.
- 5. Medium:** End with the publication medium, usually Print or Web. If citing an eBook or article from a library database, give the database name first as: *Database*. Web. day Month year of access. See last example below.

## Examples for periodicals: journals, magazines, newspapers (items published periodically)

AUTHOR	ARTICLE TITLE	PERIODICAL TITLE	VOL.ISSUE (YEAR)	PAGES	MEDIUM
Cobb, Jr., Charles E.	"Black in Different Colors."	<i>Massachusetts Review</i>	52.2 (2011):	174-78.	Print.

<b>Journal Article:</b> Give volume, issue and year as shown, and not dates. When the title names a short work, put that title in single quotes.	Rankin, Paul. "Hemingway's 'Hills Like White Elephants.'" <i>Explicator</i> 63.4 (2005): 234-37. Print.  <b>Parenthetical Citation:</b> (Rankin 236)
<b>Magazine Article: A bi-monthly magazine</b> Give dates, not volume-issue. Give date as Month-Month year abbreviating dates at noted under item 4 above.	Sandhu, Sukhdev. "Say It Loud." <i>Modern Painters</i> July-Aug. 2005: 70-73. Print.  <b>Parenthetical Citation:</b> (Sandhu 71)
<b>Magazine Article: A monthly magazine</b> Give date as Month year.	Stevens, B. K. "Advice from the Crypt." <i>Writer</i> Oct. 2012: 22-23. Print.  <b>Parenthetical Citation:</b> (Stevens 23)
<b>Magazine Article: A weekly magazine.</b> Give date as day Month year.	Robinson, Marilynn. "About Books: Beyond the Pale with Edgar Allan Poe." <i>New York Times Book Review</i> 8 Feb. 1987: 11. Print. <b>Parenthetical Citation:</b> (Robinson) Omit page number, if only one page.
<b>Newspaper Article: A daily paper.</b> Give date as day Month year. Give paper's section letter before the page number, when known.	Rafferty, Terrence. "Poe Taunts Filmmakers Evermore." <i>New York Times</i> 22 Apr. 2012, late ed.: D12+. Print. Note: The plus sign (+) indicates the article continues on another page. <b>Parenthetical Citation:</b> (Rafferty D16)
<b>Article from a library database:</b> Create the citation as shown above by type of periodical. Omit the medium "Print." Add <i>Database</i> . Web. day Month year article of access. <i>Italicize</i> database name. If pages are not available, often true in databases, use n. pag. to indicate no pages.	Nickerson, John. "Union Protests Stamford Work Sites." <i>Advocate</i> [Stamford] 10 Nov. 2012: n. pag. <i>Newspaper Source</i> . Web. 12 Dec. 2012.  Note: Give the city in [square brackets] when a city newspaper title does not include its city name. This rule does not apply to national papers such as <i>USA Today</i> or <i>Wall Street Journal</i> . <b>Parenthetical Citation:</b> (Nickerson)



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## Examples for books, pamphlets, reports, Web pages and other documents (one-time publications)

| AUTHOR | BOOK TITLE | PLACE | PUBLISHER | YEAR | MEDIUM |

Berman, Ronald. *Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and the Twenties*. Tuscaloosa: UP of Alabama, 2001. Print.

<p><b>Book with one author:</b> Give as last name, first, middle name, or initial, if known. Examples show several University Presses, abbreviated UP.</p>	<p>Berman, Ronald. <i>Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and the Twenties</i>. Tuscaloosa: UP of Alabama, 2001. Print. <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Berman 146)</p>
<p><b>Book with two or three authors:</b> Give last name first for first author. Place "and" before the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> (final) author. Separate names with commas.</p>	<p>McCloskey, Mary Lou, and Lydia Stack. <i>Voices in Literature</i>. Boston: Heinle, 1996. Print. <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (McCloskey and Stack 46) Give up to three names.</p>
<p><b>Book with more than three authors:</b> Give only the first author's name, followed by et al. which means "and others." Or, cite all of the authors.</p>	<p>Smith, John, et al. <i>Chronicle of Disease: A History of Cancer Research</i>. Austin: U of Texas P, 1998. Print. <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Smith, et al. 55)</p>
<p><b>Anthology or compilation book:</b> Example shows an editor name cited in author's place. The "ed." after a name means "editor." See note. Editor names use the same rules as author names.</p>	<p>Wolfson, Susan J., ed. <i>The Cambridge Companion to Keats</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001. Print. Note: When citing an editor in author's place, add "ed." after the name. If citing more than one editor, add "eds." <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Wolfson 227-28)</p>
<p><b>Work from an anthology:</b> Give author of the work, then title of the work, in double "quotes." If there is a book named in a title, italicize the book title (<i>Lolita</i>). Include page range numbers for the work.</p>	<p>Bordo, Susan. "The Moral Content of Nabokov's <i>Lolita</i>." <i>Aesthetic Subjects</i>. Ed. Pamela R. Matthews and David McWhirter. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2003. 125-52. Print. Note: "Ed." AFTER a book title means "Edited by." A plural "Eds." is never needed for citing more than one editor after a title. If you have more than one editor to cite, follow author rules (as to commas, "and" "et al." etc.). <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Bordo 131)</p>
<p><b>Article from a reference book:</b> Give author of the article, then title of the article in "quotes." Title of book in <i>italics</i>. Give volume used. If more than one was used, cite total vols. in the set.</p>	<p>Lindgren, Hans C. "Stereotyping." <i>Encyclopedia of Psychology</i>. Ed. Raymond J. Corsini. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. 3. New York: Wiley, 1994. Print. Note: If more than one volume was used, cite total no. of volumes: 12 vols. <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Lindgren 468)</p>
<p><b>Article reprinted in a reference book:</b> An article from another source (such as a magazine or book), has been reprinted (Rpt.) in a reference book set.</p>	<p>Shayon, Robert Lewis. "The Interplanetary Spock." <i>Saturday Review</i> 17 June 1967: 46. Rpt. in <i>Contemporary Literary Criticism</i>. Ed. Sharon R. Gunton. Vol. 17. Detroit: Gale, 1981. Print. <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Shayon 403)</p>
<p><b>Government publication:</b> (a pamphlet, report, or other document) Give larger organization name first, then smaller organizations or divisions as author.</p>	<p>Statistics Canada. Center for Education Statistics. <i>Canadian Culture in Perspective: A Statistical Overview</i>. Ottawa: Statistic Canada, 2000. Print. <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Statistics Canada 49)</p>
<p><b>Database versions for any of the above examples:</b> Omit the medium "Print." Add <i>Database</i>. Web. day Month year of access. Italicize <i>Database</i> name.</p>	<p>Berman, Ronald. <i>Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and the Twenties</i>. Tuscaloosa: UP of Alabama, 2001. <i>EBooks on EbscoHost</i>. Web. 1 Jan. 2012. <b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Berman 146)</p>



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## Examples for Web pages and documents on the free Web (i.e. not from a library database)

| AUTHOR | WEB PAGE TITLE: SUBTITLE | SITE NAME| SITE SPONSOR | DATE | MEDIUM | ACCESS DATE |  
 (If none, leave blank) "Ernest Hemingway: Biography." *Bio.com*. A&E Network, 2012. Web. 12 Dec. 2012.

<p><b>Web page:</b> Give page author, if known, or the corporate author name, if an organization. Web page title is in "quotes." Give the Web site name in <i>italics</i>. Web site sponsor or publisher, Date. (n.d. if no date.) Web. day Month year accessed. The example shows a source without an author, in which case the page title starts the citation.</p>	<p>"Ernest Hemingway: Biography." <i>Bio.com</i>. A&amp;E Network, 2012. Web. 12 Dec. 2012. &lt; <a href="http://www.biography.com/people/ernest-hemingway-9334498">http://www.biography.com/people/ernest-hemingway-9334498</a>&gt;.</p> <p>Note: The URL is NOT required except for instances where it would be hard to find the source without it. In this case, or if your instructor asks for a URL, give it as shown above inside of angle brackets.</p> <p><b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> ("Ernest Hemingway")</p>
<p><b>eBook on the Web:</b> Cite as a book, and give the Web site name in <i>italics</i>, and site sponsor or publisher. Follow with Web. day Month year eBook was accessed.</p>	<p>Twain, Mark. <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Tom Sawyer's Comrade</i>. New York: Harper, 1896. <i>Google Book Search</i>. Google. Web. 11 Dec. 2012.</p> <p><b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Twain 47)</p>
<p><b>PDF document on the Web:</b> Cite following our examples for a book, report or periodical article, as the case may be. Give the Web site name in <i>italics</i>. Web site sponsor or publisher. Web. day Month year document was accessed.</p>	<p>Modern Language Association. <i>Report to the Teagle Foundation on the Undergraduate Major in Language and Literature</i>. MLA. Modern Language Association, Feb. 2009. Web. 12 Dec. 2012.</p> <p><b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Modern Language Assn. 35)</p>

## Other types of things: See MLA Handbook pages 193-204 for more examples.

<p><b>TV or radio broadcast:</b> Give title of episode, if any, in "quotes." <i>Title of program</i>. Name of network. Call letters, city (if any), date. Medium. (Television or Radio).</p>	<p>"Death and Society." Narr. Joanne Silberner. <i>Weekend Edition Sunday</i>. Natl. Public Radio. WUWM, Milwaukee, 25 Jan. 1998. Radio.</p> <p>Note: Narr. means "narrated by." OK to include but not required.</p> <p><b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> ("Death and Society")</p>
<p><b>Film or video recording:</b> Give <i>title</i> in italics, Dir. (directed by), publisher or distributor, year. Medium. (DVD, Videocassette, Film).</p>	<p><i>Birth of a Nation</i>. Dir. David W. Griffith. 1905. Image Entertainment, 1998. DVD.</p> <p>Note: First date is original date of the film. Second date is date of DVD.</p> <p><b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (<i>Birth of a Nation</i>)</p>
<p><b>Sound recording:</b> Give performers or group name. <i>Title</i>. Publisher name. Date. Medium. (CD, LP, Audiocassette).</p>	<p>Kronos Quartet. <i>Nuevo</i>. Nonesuch, 2002. CD.</p> <p>Note: Place a comma between a media manufacturer's name and date.</p> <p><b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Kronos)</p>
<p><b>Personal or Telephone interview:</b> Name of person interviewed. Personal interview or Telephone interview. Day Month year of the interview.</p>	<p>Pei, I.M. Personal interview. 12 Dec. 2012. Or Tan, Amy. Telephone interview. 12 Dec. 2012.</p> <p><b>Paranthetical Citations:</b> (Pei) (Tan)</p>
<p><b>E-mail:</b> Name of e-mail sender. "Re: Subject line." Message to recipient name. Day Month year sent. E-mail.</p>	<p>Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." Message to Daniel J. Cahill. 12 Dec. 2012. E-mail.</p> <p><b>Paranthetical Citation:</b> (Boyle)</p>

**Missing a citation element?** No author? Start with the title. No publisher name or place? Use n.p. No date? Use n.d. No page? Use n. pag. See the MLA handbook for other abbreviations, pages 240-247.



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## Parenthetical citations

You have an original quote to cite on page 109 from a book by Gibaldi that says "Quotations are effective in research papers when used selectively." Here are three ways to cite this quote in your paper:

- Give the author's name within the quoted sentence and add the page number at the end of the sentence: "Quotations are effective in research papers when used selectively," states Gibaldi (109).
- If you do not give an author's name in a quoted sentence, cite the name and page at the end of the quote: Remember that "[q]uotations are effective in research papers when used selectively" (Gibaldi 109).
- You may also paraphrase or summarize the original information, which still requires that you cite the original author and the page number at the end of the information:  
Within the research paper quotations will have more impact when used judiciously (Gibaldi 109).

A prose quotation 4 lines or less is within "quotes." If more than 4 lines use the block quote, indenting the entire quote one inch from the left margin. For verse (poetry) or play (drama) quotations see the MLA Handbook, pages 95-97.

## Use this checklist: Have you correctly formatted your paper and included all required elements?

<b>Basic Format</b>	
[ ]	The entire document including block quotations and Works Cited page, is double-spaced and has 1 inch margins.
[ ]	The entire document is in an easily read typeface (e.g. 12-point, Times New Roman font).
[ ]	The entire document is left justified.
[ ]	The first line of all paragraphs is indented ½ inch from the left margin.
[ ]	Unless requested by your instructor, the document does not have a title page.
[ ]	Your name, your instructor's name, the course name and number, and the date appear on separate lines in the upper left corner of the first page, double-spaced, above the title.
[ ]	The document is consecutively page numbered. The page number appears in the upper right-hand corner of the page, ½ inch from the top, flush with the right margin, with your last name in front of the number.
[ ]	The paper title is centered at the top of the first page in plain text (not bold, underlined or italicized). Use the same capitalization rules as you would for any title.
[ ]	All abbreviations used are consistent with those listed in the MLA manual. (MLA Handbook 233)
<b>Parenthetical Citations</b>	
[ ]	All sources cited in the paper are included in the Works Cited section at the end of the document.
[ ]	All parenthetical citations are formatted correctly and include a page number.
[ ]	All quotations are formatted correctly.
[ ]	All prose quotations 4 lines or less are within quotation marks. (Verse or play quotations follow rules on page 95-97.)
[ ]	All prose quotations greater than 4 lines, and verse quotations greater than 3 lines are formatted as block quotes.
[ ]	All quotations of dialogue between two or more characters in a play are formatted as block quotes.
<b>Works Cited</b>	
[ ]	All sources that are in the Works Cited section are also cited in the paper.
[ ]	The Works Cited section starts on a separate page.
[ ]	The works cited are listed in alphabetical order by the author's last name or other first word of the citation.
[ ]	The works cited are formatted with a hanging indent.
[ ]	The works cited are double-spaced both within the citation and between the citations.