

Modern Library Association (MLA) Style for Citing Sources

When writing a report, you should cite the sources for quotations, facts that are not common knowledge, and ideas that are not your own. Sources can be cited by using *Internal Citations* along with a *Bibliography of Works Cited* section at the end of your paper.

Internal Citations: An internal citation appears in parentheses. It introduces the author's last name and the page number on which the information appears. The citation appears right before the period at the end of the sentence(s) in which you used the material. If several sentences in a row contain information from the same source, the citation only needs to appear at the end of the last sentence.

Example:

“The Duke of Lancaster in 1888... controlled more than 163,000 acres of British countryside” (Pool 163)

MLA recommends double spacing citations.

- If no author is given, start the citation with the title
- Abbreviate the names of all months, except May, June and July.
- Indent the second line and all other lines 5 spaces
- If publishing information is not given, use these abbreviations:

✓ No publisher or place given: n.p.

✓ No page numbers: n. pag.

✓ No date of publication given: n.d.

Notes on Articles from Encyclopedias

If the article is signed, give the author's name first; if it is unsigned, give the title first. Often articles are signed with initials only; you will need to look for a list of “contributors” that identifies the initials.

When you cite a widely used reference book (such as *Britannica*, *Americana*, or *World Book* encyclopedia), do not give full publication information; instead list only the edition (if stated), year of publication, and medium of publication consulted.

When you cite a specialized reference book, such as a specialized encyclopedia, you do give full publication information (including editor, volume, city and publisher), but you omit page numbers if the encyclopedia entries are arranged alphabetically.

Examples of citations for articles from encyclopedias

General encyclopedia, unsigned article

“Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.” *The Encyclopedia Americana*. 2005 ed.

Print.

General encyclopedia, signed article

Manchester, William. “Kennedy, John F.” *The New Encyclopedia Britannica:*

Micropaedia. 15th ed. 2007. Print.

Specialized encyclopedia, arranged alphabetically

Sellen, Robert W. “John F. Kennedy.” *Great Lives from History: The 20th Century,*

1901-2000. Ed. Robert F. Gorman. Rev. ed. Vol. 5. Pasadena: Salem P, 2008.

Print.

Specialized encyclopedia, not arranged alphabetically

Lee, Joseph Edward. “Kennedy is Elected President.” *Great Events from History: The 20th century, 1941-1970*. Ed. Robert F. Gorman. Vol. 4. Pasadena: Salem P. 2008.

2113-2115. Print.

MLA Style - Print Sources

Books	Example
One author (MLA 5.5.2)	Fairbanks, Carol. <i>Prairie Women: Images in American and Canadian Fiction</i> . New Haven: Yale UP, 1986. Print.
Two or three authors (MLA 5.5.4)	Davidson, William R., Daniel J. Sweeney, and Ronald W. Stampfl. <i>Retailing Management</i> . 6th ed. New York: Wiley, 1988. Print.
More than three authors (MLA 5.5.4)	Gilman, Sander, et al. <i>Hysteria beyond Freud</i> . Berkeley: U of California P, 1993. Print.
Anonymous book (MLA 5.5.9)	<i>New York Public Library American History Desk Reference</i> . New York: Macmillan, 1997. Print.
Anthology or compilation (MLA 5.5.3)	Feldman, Paula R., ed. <i>British Women Poets of the Romantic Era</i> . Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. Print.
Work in an anthology (MLA 5.5.6)	Shutte, Nancy, and Laura Tangley. "Problem Drinkers Can Learn Moderation." <i>Addiction: Opposing Viewpoints</i> . Ed. Jennifer A. Hurley. San Diego: Greenhaven, 2000. 93-100. Print.

Articles	Example
<p>Magazine articles</p> <p>(MLA 5.4.6)</p> <p>(Abbreviate all months except May, June and July.)</p>	<p>(The first article below is from a weekly magazine; the second is from a monthly magazine.)</p> <p>Mathews, Jay. "How to Build a Better High School." <i>Newsweek</i> 16 May 2005: 52-57. Print.</p> <p>Wright, Karen. "The First Earthlings." <i>Discover</i> Mar. 2003: 24-25. Print.</p>
<p>Journal article</p> <p>(MLA 5.4.2)</p>	<p>(There is no distinction made between journals with continuous paging and those with issues paged separately.)</p> <p>Cnattingius, Sven, et al. "Pregnancy Characteristics and Maternal Risk of Breast Cancer." <i>JAMA</i> 294.19 (2005):2474-2480. Print.</p> <p>Albada, Kelly Fudge. "The Public and Private Dialogue about the American Family on Television." <i>Journal of Communication</i> 50.4 (2000): 79-110. Print.</p>
<p>Reference book / encyclopedia article</p> <p>(MLA 5.5.7)</p>	<p>(Give full publication information only for specialized encyclopedias, as in last example.)</p> <p>"Civil Disobedience." <i>The Encyclopedia Americana</i>. 2004 ed. Print.</p> <p>Mohanty, Jitendra N. "Indian Philosophy." <i>The New Encyclopedia Britannica: Macropaedia</i>. 15th ed. 1998. Print.</p> <p>Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." <i>Encyclopedia of Bioethics</i>. Ed. Stephen G. Post. 3rd ed. Vol. 4. New York: Macmillan-Thomson, 2004. Print.</p>
<p>Newspaper article</p> <p>(MLA 5.4.5)</p>	<p>Harris, Nicole. "Airports in the Throes of Change." <i>Wall Street Journal</i> 27 Mar. 2002: B1+. Print.</p> <p>"Elections Could Change the Game for Contractors." <i>Washington Post</i> 15 Sep. 2008: D2. Print.</p>

MLA Style - Electronic Sources

Electronic Source	Example
Online book (MLA 5.6.2c)	Ambler, Tim, and Morgen Witzel. <i>Doing Business in China</i> . London: Routledge, 2000. <i>ebrary</i> . Web. 17 Jan. 2009.
Magazine article from a subscription service (MLA 5.6.4)	Kluger, Jeffrey. "Dr. Sigmund Doolittle." <i>Discover</i> Feb. 1996: 84+. <i>Academic OneFile</i> . Web. 1 Apr. 2009.
Journal article from a subscription service (MLA 5.6.4)	Lappan, Glenda. "Revitalizing and Refocusing Our Efforts." <i>Journal for Research in Mathematics Education</i> 30.5 (1999): 568-78. <i>OmniFile</i> . Web. 8 Feb. 2009 . Thompson, Michael D., and Robert O. Riggs. "Institutional Expenditure Patterns and the Facilitation of Mission." <i>Community College Review</i> 27.4 (2000): 1+ . <i>Academic Search Premier</i> . Web. 12 Feb. 2009.
Newspaper article from a subscription service (MLA 5.9.4)	Olson, Elizabeth. "Something New: A 4-Year Degree at a 2-Year College." <i>New York Times</i> 14 Dec. 2005, late ed.: B8+. <i>National Newspapers</i> . Web. 6 Mar. 2009.
Encyclopedia article or work in anthology from a subscription service (MLA 5.6.2c)	Howard, Lillie. "Zora Neale Hurston." <i>Dictionary of Literary Biography: Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940</i> . Ed. Trudier Harris. Detroit: Gale, 1987. <i>Literature Resource Center</i> . Web. 26 Jan. 2009.
Website (MLA 5.6.2b)	<i>Bio</i> . A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 10 Apr. 2009.
Article on website (MLA 5.9.1)	Musinsky, Gerald. "Animal Spirits." <i>Encyclopedia Mythica</i> , 2006. Web. 18 Mar. 2009.