

BMCC Library Guide **Using the MLA Style to Document Your Paper or Speech**

This guide helps you follow the MLA Style of writing and documentation. Some of the examples below are from this book: Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Note: as of 2009, most databases now provide MLA citation information for students, making this guide less necessary.

In-Text Citations

Every source listed on your Works Cited page must be referred to in your paper or speech. You may quote directly, paraphrase, or summarize, but in every case you must give credit. For example, a summary: Rochette and Sanders say that Liza Lou's meticulous sculptures are beyond compare (170-171). Direct quote: Acker said, "I picked Don Quixote as a subject really by chance" (Friedman).

Works Cited Page

Entitle your page "Works Cited" (without quotes) and center on the page. If your entry exceeds one line, indent 5 spaces for every subsequent line. Abbreviate months and words like university (U) and press (P) or University Press (UP). You may abbreviate the names of publishers, for example, Gale Group can be listed as Gale. Do not abbreviate the titles of books, magazines, journals, or web sites. If more than one city of publication is listed, use the first city.

If you found books, book chapters, or encyclopedia entries using Literature Resource Center, Points of View, Opposing Viewpoints, or Gale Virtual Reference Library, consult those databases for MLA Works Cited format.

Book by one or two authors

Format:

Author's last name, first name (and second author's first name last name). *Title of Book*. City: Publisher, Year. Medium.

Examples:

Chang, Leslie T. *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2008. Print.

Ellis, Richard and Mark Swanson. *The Empty Ocean: Plundering the World's Marine Life*. Washington, DC: Island P, 2003. Web.

Book with editor:

Format:

Editor's last name, first name, ed. *Title of Book*. City: Publisher, Year. Medium.

Example:

Pritchett, Laura, ed. *Going Green: True Tales from Gleaners, Scavengers, and Dumpster Divers*. Norman: U of Oklahoma P, 2009. Print.

Print magazine article

Format:

Author's last name, first name. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine* Date: Page Numbers. Print.

Example:

Rochette, Anne and Wade Saunders. "Place Matters: Los Angeles Sculptors Today." *Art in America* Nov. 2006: 168-191. Print.

Print newspaper article (see pp. 141-142 MLA Handbook for detailed information)

Format: same as for a magazine article, but newspapers have different pagination. Indicate edition when provided, and use + to indicate continuation of article on nonconsecutive page. If no author, begin with title.

Example:

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

Print journal article

Format:

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*. Volume. Issue or Number (Date): Page Numbers. Print. Note: some journals do not have volumes. In that case, just provide Issue or Number.

Example:

Williams, Linda. "Of Kisses and Ellipses: The Long Adolescence of American Movies." *Critical Inquiry* 32.2 (2006): 288-340. Print.

Electronic journal, magazine, or newspaper article (from Library Databases like Academic Search Complete, Humanities Full Text, or ProQuest)

Format: Same as for print, but drop "Print" at end. If no page numbers provided, use n. pag. Then add *Database Name*. Web. Day Month Year Accessed.

Examples:

Pan, Allison. "Crossing the Border: Art and Change in East Harlem." *Journal for Cultural Research* 12.1 (Jan. 2008): 39-57. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 1 Feb. 2009.

Wood, Jason. "Do The Right Thing." *Sight and Sound* Jan. 1998: 22-30. *Humanities Full Text*. Web. 16 Nov. 2008.

"Mind-enhancing drugs: Are they a no-brainer?" *The Independent (London, England)* 19 June 2009: 20. *Custom Newspapers*. Web. 1 Sept. 2009

Electronic journal article (from a free directory on the Internet, like Directory of Open Access Journals, Open J-Gate, or Google Scholar)

Format:

Same as citing a journal article in print, but if no page numbers provided, use n. pag. Medium is Web. Add day month year you accessed the article.

Example:

Shehan, Constance L., and Amanda B. Moras. "Deconstructing Laundry: Gendered Technologies and the Reluctant Redesign of Household Labor." *Michigan Family Review* 11 (2006): n. pag. Web. 15 July 2009.

Web sites and web pages

Format:

Author's last name, Author's first name. "Title of Work or Page (if provided)." *Title of Website*. Publisher or Sponsor of Website (if not available, use N.p.). Day Month Year of publication or last update; if not available, use n.d. Web. Day Month Year of access.

Examples:

Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. *The William Blake Archive*. Lib. Of Cong., n.d. Web. 15 May 2009.

Acker, Kathy. "Interview by Ellen G. Friedman." *Dalkey Archive Press*. Dalkey Archive P, 1 Feb. 1998. Web. 20 Sept. 2009.

For other documentation questions, see the *Handbook* itself or ask a librarian for help.

Also consult:

Hunter Library Flash Tutorial http://library.hunter.cuny.edu/tutorials/mla/mla_tutorial.html

Purdue University MLA Guide <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>