

What is the MLA Referencing Style?

The Modern Languages Association of America (MLA) style is one of the most popular 'Harvard-type' referencing styles (*MLA is also known as *inline citations* or *parenthetical referencing style*). MLA citation style is based on the 7th edition of the "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" published by the Modern Language Association of America in 2009.

This style is generally used in humanities subjects including languages, literature, art and philosophy.

NOTE: When you are asked to use MLA style when referencing, always follow your department's specific recommendations.

How to create MLA 'in-text' citations

The MLA referencing style uses the author's family name and page details for general in-text citation. When an author's name is mentioned in the text, the page number should be cited.

Examples:

- Variation in language with age may be due partly to the inevitable biological effects of ageing (Cook 169).
- Cook concluded that... (225).
- Described by Cashdan philosophies of learning (5-8) indicate that....

Citing more than one reference in a sentence

When you need to cite more than one reference in the same sentence, they should be separated with a semicolon. If two authors have the same surname, their initials should be used before

Examples:

- Language development is ... (Cook 225; Cashdan 8).

Citing a book with more than two authors

When referencing a book with more than two authors they all need to be cited. If a source has four or more authors then you can use *et al.* after first author's name.

Examples:

- There is a high degree of linguistic reinforcement ... (Maley and Duff 229).
- It is probably true that assimilatory phenomena are greater in casual than in precise formal speech (Graddol, Cheshire and Swann 46).
- Research suggests that college completion is tied to institutional revenues (Braxton et al. 16).

How to create your MLA Bibliography or Cited Works List

- According to the MLA Handbook, references within your text must clearly point to specific sources in the *Cited Works List or Bibliography* that appears at the end of your assignment.
- All sources are listed alphabetically according to the Author's name. If there is more than one author, their names must begin with full forenames. If the cited source has no author just an editor or compiler, a comma has to be placed after the final name and abbreviation **ed.** or **comp.** added.
- The title of a reference also needs to be italicised and the first word of the title or subtitle, all nouns, verbs and adjectives need to be capitalized.
- Chapters of edited books, the title of journal articles or titles of poems from collected editions should be enclosed in quotation marks and not italicised.
- All sources listed in Cited Works must include the medium in which they were published i.e. Print, Web, Film, CD-ROM, or DVD.

A book with a single author should be referenced in the following way.

- **Author/Editor Surname, Forename. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication. Medium of publication**

Examples:

- Cook, Vivian. *Inside Language*. London: Arnold, 1997. Print.
- Cashdann, Asher, ed. *Literacy: Teaching and Learning Language Skills*. New York: Basil Blackwell, 1986. Print.

A book with up to three authors should be referenced in the following way.

- **Author Surname, Forename, Author Forename, Surname, and Author Forename, Surname. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year. Medium.**

Examples:

- Maley, Alan, and Alan Duff. *Drama techniques: A Resource of Book of Communication Activities for Language Teachers*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005. Print.
- Kennedy, J. Gerald, Liliane Weissberg, eds. *Romancing the Shadow: Poe and Race*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2001. Print.
- Graddol, David, Jenny Cheshire, and Joan Swann. *Describing language*. 2nd ed. Buckingham: Open UP, 2002. Print.

NOTE: MLA requires using shortened forms of the publishers' name (e.g. Oxford UP instead of Oxford University Press) while omitting articles and business abbreviations e.g. Co., Corp., Ltd.

A book with more than three authors should be referenced in the following way.

- **First Author Surname, Forename, et al. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year. Medium.**

Example:

- Braxton, John M. et al. *Rethinking College Student Retention*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2014. Print.

A book chapter in an edited book should be referenced in the following way.

- **Author of the chapter Surname, Forename. "Title of the chapter". *Title of the book/collection*. Ed. First name and Surname of the editor. Place of publication: Publisher, Year. Page numbers of chapter. Medium.**

Example:

- Blakeslee, Sandra. "The Mystery of Music: How it Works in the Brain". *Book of Language and Linguistics*. Ed. Nicholas Wade. Guilford: Lyons P, 2003. 141-148. Print.

An eBook should be referenced in the following way.

- **Author/Editor Surname, Forename. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year. *Online Library or Retrieval Service*. Web. Date of access.**

Example:

- Scruton, Roger. *A Short History of Modern Philosophy: From Descartes to Wittgenstein*. London: Routledge, 2002. *Dawsonera*. Web. 20 Feb. 2016.

A Print journal article should be referenced in the following way.

- **Author of article Surname, Forename. "Title of the article". *Title of journal* Volume number, Issue number (Year): Page numbers. Medium of publication.**

Example:

- Bangerter, Adrian, and Chip Heath. "The Mozart effect: Tracking the Evolution of a Scientific Legend". *British Journal of Social Psychology* 43.4 (2004): 605-623. Print.

An E-journal article should be referenced in the following way.

- Author of article Surname, Forename. "Title of the article". *Title of journal* Volume number. Issue number (Year): Page numbers. *Name of Database*. Web. Date of access.

Example:

- Parker, Ian. "Helplessness in an adjacent psychoanalytic culture, Japan". *Psychodynamic Practice* 12.1 (2006): 87-97. *EBSCOhost*. Web. 03 May 2016.

A Website should be referenced in the following way.

- Authors Surname, Forename. *Name of internet site*. Year of creation. Web. Date of access. <URL> of website.

Example:

- Scaruffi, Piero. *A History of Jazz Music*. 2005. Web. 11 Mar. 2016. <<http://www.scaruffi.com/history/jazz1.html>>.

NOTE: When referencing a journal article from an online database or other electronic source, the particular name of this source needs to be included in italics i.e. Web as the medium of publication and date of access. The latest revision of MLA no longer requires inclusion of the URL of the website at the end of the reference. However you should check with your lecturer to see if they require this to be listed. When including the URL, it should be placed immediately after date of access and a full stop within a set of angle brackets <>.

A Musical score should be referenced in the following way.

- Composer's Surname, Forename. *Title*. Date of composition. Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication. Medium of publication. Series.

Example:

- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. *Rondo: from Serenade No. 10 K363*. N. d. Yorkshire: Emerson, 2009. Print.

NOTE: Published musical scores or librettos need to be treated like a book, abbreviations no. and op. should be capitalised. If the score is part of a series, this information needs to be included after the medium of publication. When citing a musical score, the names of the composer need to appear first but for libretto an entry starts with name of librettist and the composer names follows the title.

A Poem in an anthology or collection should be referenced in the following way.

- Author of poem Surname, Forename. "Title of poem". *Title of anthology/collection*. Ed. or Comp. First Name Surname. Place of publication: Publisher, Year. Page numbers. Medium.

Example:

- Longley, Michael. "Galapagos". *Selected Poems*. London: Jonathan Cape, 1998. 25. Print.
- Carson, Ciaran. "Dresden". *Modern Irish Poetry: An Anthology*. Ed. Patrick Crotty. Belfast: Blackstaff PL, 1999. 308-312. Print.

A Film or DVD should be referenced in the following way.

- *Title of film*. Dir. Director's name. Name of distributor, Year of release. Medium.

Example:

- *Rear window*. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. Universal Pictures, 2005. DVD.
- *North by Northwest*. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. Perf. Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, and James Mason. 1959. Warner Home Video, 2000. DVD.

Example of an MLA Bibliography (Cited Works List) in Alphabetical order:

Bangerter, Adrian, and Chip Heath. "The Mozart effect: Tracking the Evolution of a Scientific Legend". *British Journal of Social Psychology* 43.4 (2004): 605-623. Print.

Blakeslee, Sandra. "The Mystery of Music: How it Works in the Brain". *Book of Language and Linguistics*. Ed. Nicholas Wade. Guilford: Lyons P, 2003. 141-148. Print.

Braxton, John M. et al. *Rethinking College Student Retention*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2014. Print.

Carson, Ciaran. "Dresden". *Modern Irish Poetry: An Anthology*. Ed. Patrick Crotty. Belfast: Blackstaff PL, 1999. 308-312. Print.

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Graddol, David, Jenny Cheshire, and Joan Swann. *Describing language*. 2nd ed. Buckingham: Open UP, 2002. Print.

Kennedy, J. Gerald, Liliane Weissberg, eds. *Romancing the Shadow: Poe and Race*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2001. Print.

Maley, Alan, and Alan Duff. *Drama techniques: A Resource of Book of Communication Activities for Language Teachers*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005. Print.

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North by Northwest. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. Perf. Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, and James Mason. 1959. Warner Home Video, 2000. DVD.

Parker, Ian. "Helplessness in an adjacent psychoanalytic culture, Japan". *Psychodynamic Practice* 12.1 (2006): 87-97. EBSCOhost. Web. 03 May 2016.

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