

Quick Guide to MLA 2009

This is a brief guide to MLA (Modern Language Association) style. For a more complete guide, go to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Basic Rules:

1. Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
2. Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
3. Use one list for all sources: books, electronic sources, newspapers and magazines, etc.
4. If a source has no author, use the title first in the entry.
5. If a title is first in the entry do not use *a*, *an*, or *the* at the beginning of a title to put sources in order; begin with the second word.
6. Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
7. Indent second and following lines of an individual entry by five spaces.
8. Do not number your entries.
9. For every entry, you must determine the Medium of Publication. Most entries will likely be listed as Print or Web sources, but other possibilities may include Film, CD-ROM, or DVD.
10. *Writers are no longer required to provide URLs for Web entries.* However, if your teacher insists on them, include them in angle brackets after the entry and end with a period. For long URLs, break lines only at slashes.
11. If you're citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database, you should type the online database name in italics. You do not need to provide subscription information in addition to the database name.
12. Capitalize each word in the titles of articles, books, etc, but do not capitalize articles, short prepositions, or conjunctions unless one is the first word of the title or subtitle: *Gone with the Wind, The Art of War, There Is Nothing Left to Lose.*
13. Use italics for titles of longer works (books, magazines) and quotation marks for titles of shorter works (poems, articles).

Print Sources:

A citation for a print publication includes the following elements:

Author name

Title of Work (italicized)

edition

volume

city of publication, name of publisher, date of publication*

medium of publication (Print.)

* For books, the date of publication is just the year. Other materials such as articles from magazines, newspapers, and journals require the date (day, month, year) or n.d. if no date is available.

Examples:

Book with one author:

Tufte, Edward R. *Visual Explanations*. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press, 1997. Print.

Book with more than one author:

Mortenson, Greg and David Oliver Relin. *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations... One School at a Time*. New York: Viking Penguin, 2006. Print.

Book with no author:

New York Times Dictionary of Misunderstood, Misused, and Mispronounced Words. New York, NY: Black Dog and Leventhal, 1999. Print.

Article in a reference book (dictionary, encyclopedia):

“For entries in encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other reference works, cite the piece as you would any other work in a collection but do not include the publisher information. Also, if the reference book is organized alphabetically, as most are, do not list the volume or the page number of the article or item.” (Purdue OWL)

Example:

“Disney, Walt.” *World Book Encyclopedia*. 2009. Print.

Electronic Sources:

A citation for an electronic source includes the following elements, in order:

Author name

“Title of Article” (in quotations)

Title of Overall Website (in italics)

version or edition

publisher or sponsor of the site If not available use N.p.

date of publication (day, month, year) If not available, use n.d.

Name of database if applicable (italicized)

Medium of publication (Web.)

Date of access (day, month, year)

Examples:

Website:

Robbins, Ted. “Illustrator Keeps Artistic Vision Despite Eye Injury.” *NPR.org*. NPR, 8 Sept. 2009. Web. 8 Sept. 2009.

Online newspaper or journal article:

O’Keefe, Ed. “Did Education Dept.'s Shift Help Kill PBS's 'Reading Rainbow'?” *The Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 28 Aug. 2009. Web. 8 Sept. 2009.

Journal Article for an Online Database:

Adams, Helen. "Disclosing Student Records." *School Library Media Activities Monthly*. 6 Oct. 2006: 35. *Library Lit & Inf Full Text*. Web. 11 Feb. 2009.

An image:

"Provide the artist's name, the work of art italicized, the date of creation, the institution and city where the work is housed. Follow this initial entry with the name of the Website in italics, the medium of publication, and the date of access." (Purdue OWL)

Wood, Grant. *American Gothic*. 1930. The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago. *The Art Institute of Chicago: Art Access*. Web. 12 Sept. 2009.

Source:

Purdue OWL. "MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide." *The Purdue OWL*. Purdue U Writing Lab, 9 Sept. 2009. Web. 12 Sept. 2009.