

What is MLA Style?

Modern Language Association (MLA) style is one of several styles for academic citation. It is used in the humanities, especially English. The examples in this guide cover the more common sources only. For more detailed information, refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* 7th ed. available in the reference and the circulation collections at **LB 2369.G53 2009**.

The following pages explain how to acknowledge the sources you use when writing essays. There are two places in the essay where citations of sources are provided.

1. In the body of the essay, you acknowledge your source at the end of the sentence containing the quotation or reference to another author's works. We refer to these end-of-sentence citations as "parenthetical references."
2. At the end of the essay, after the last page, create a list of all of the sources mentioned in the essay. When using MLA Style, this list is entitled Works Cited. Do not put quotation marks around this phrase, and do not underline or italicize it. See last page of this handout for a sample Works Cited.

General Rules for Works Cited

- Double-space the Works Cited.
- Use hanging indentation format. With this format, the first line of each entry starts at the left margin, but the second and any subsequent lines in each entry are indented one-half inch from the left margin. In MS Word use Page Layout>Paragraph>Special>Hanging.
- Alphabetize entries by the author's last name or, if there is no author, by title, ignoring initial articles such as *A*, *An* or *The*.
- Reverse the author's name for alphabetizing, but otherwise give the author's name as it appears in the source.
- If there are two or more entries by the same author(s), give the name(s) in the first entry, and then use three hyphens in place of the name(s) in the following entry or entries; alphabetize the entries by title.
- Capitalize the first, the last and all significant words of a title and subtitle regardless of how they are capitalized in your source.
- Omit initial articles for titles of journals, magazines and newspapers.
- Italicize titles and subtitles for works published independently such as books or journals; use quotation marks for works published only as part of another work, e.g. essay in a book or article in a journal.
- If more than one city is listed for a publisher, give only the first city as place of publication.
- Shorten publisher's name. Use U for university and P for press (*MLA Handbook* 151).
- Missing publication information that you provide is in square brackets to show it did not come from the source; otherwise use n.p. for no place of publication or no publisher given, and n.d. for no date of publication given (*MLA Handbook* 179).

"MLA style is flexible, and sometimes you must improvise to record features not anticipated by this handbook" (*MLA Handbook* 182).

Parenthetical References

1. When you incorporate another's words, facts or ideas, whether in a direct quotation or by paraphrasing, you need to insert a brief parenthetical acknowledgement. Give the author's last name and the page(s) of the source. If the author's name appears in the sentence, you may omit it from the parenthetical citation.

- Medieval Europe was a place of "raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion" (Townsend 10).
- Townsend notes that medieval Europe was a place of "raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion" (10).
- Townsend described medieval Europe as a violent and brutal place (10).

"Place the parenthetical reference where a pause would naturally occur (preferably at the end of a sentence), as near as possible to the materials documented" (*MLA Handbook* 217).

2. For web resources, unless the pages or paragraphs are numbered, use only the author's last name. If no author is indicated, use the first word of the title.

3. "If you borrow more than once from the same source within a single paragraph and no borrowing from another source intervenes, you may give a single parenthetical reference after the last borrowing" (*MLA Handbook* 218).

4. In citing classic verse, plays and poems, omit page numbers and cite by division (act, scene, canto, book, part) and line, with periods separating the various numbers. Titles of famous works are often abbreviated (*Ham.* 1.5.35-37).

The following sample bibliographical entries show you how each item should appear in the Works Cited list at the end of your essay. After each sample bibliographical entry, there is a second example that shows how to format the parenthetical references. Place the parenthetical reference inside round brackets at the end of the sentence containing the quotation or reference to another author's work.

BOOKS & BOOK SECTIONS

One Author (p. 148 #5.5.2)

Grinnell, George C. *The Age of Hypochondria: Interpreting Romantic Health and Illness*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. Print.

Parenthetical reference: (Grinnell 32)

Two or More Authors (p. 154 #5.5.4)

Chambers, Ruth, and Jan Gattrell. *Okanagan History Vignettes: Readings for Adult Literacy Students*. Kelowna: Okanagan University College, 2001. Print.

Parenthetical reference: (Chambers and Gattrell 52-53)

More Than Three Authors (p. 155 #5.5.4)

Gillis, Sander, et al. *Grammar of the English Language*. New York: Random, 1987. Print.

Parenthetical reference: (Gillis et al. 27)

Corporate Author (p. 156 #5.5.5)

Okanagan Writers' League. *A Few Loose Feathers: An Anthology*. Penticton: Sabre, 1994. Print.

Parenthetical reference: (Okanagan Writers' League 65)

No Author (p. 162 #5.5.9)	<p><i>A Guide to Our Federal Lands</i>. Washington: Natl. Geographic Soc., 1984. Print.</p> <p>Paranthetical reference: (<i>Guide</i> 241-42)</p>
Edited Book (p. 153 #5.5.3)	<p>Carne, Mark, Richard Raiswell, and Margaret Reeves, eds. <i>Shell Games: Studies in Scams, Frauds, and Deceits</i>. Toronto: Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, 2004. Print.</p> <p>Paranthetical reference: (Carne, Raiswell, and Reeves 142)</p>
Chapter in an Edited Book (p. 157 #5.5.6)	<p>MacArthur, Janet. "Imaginary Homelands and Thoughts Abroad: Dennis Brutus' Hybrid Modernism." <i>Critical Perspectives on Dennis Brutus</i>. Ed. Craig W. McLuckie and Patrick J. Colbert. Colorado Springs: Three Continents, 1995. 70-85. Print.</p> <p>Paranthetical reference: (MacArthur 70)</p>
Two or more works from an edited book or anthology (p. 135 #5.3.6)	<p>Loughlin, Marie H, Sandra Bell, and Patricia Brace, eds. <i>The Broadview Anthology of Sixteenth-Century Poetry and Prose</i>. Peterborough: Broadview P, 2012. Print.</p> <p>Marlowe, Christopher. "Hero and Leander." Loughlin, Bell, and Brace 1213-1225.</p> <p>Note: When citing two or more works from a collection, create a complete entry for the book and cross-reference as shown with the Marlowe entry.</p>
Poem in an Anthology (p. 157 #5.5.6 & p. 95 #3.7.3)	<p>Page, P. K. "Images of Angels." <i>The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry</i>. 2nd ed. Ed. Richard Ellmann and Robert O'Clair. New York: Norton, 1988. 941-43. Print.</p> <p>Paranthetical reference: When describing angels, Page says, "Perhaps only a dog could accept them wholly, / be happy to follow at their heels / and bark and romp with them in the green fields" (59-61).</p>
Dictionary – Print (p. 160 #5.5.7)	<p>"Ideology." <i>Gage Canadian Dictionary</i>. Rev. ed. 1997. Print.</p> <p>Paranthetical reference: ("Ideology" 758)</p>
Encyclopedia – Print (p. 160 #5.5.7)	<p>Holmes, Nancy. "Writing Programs in Canada." <i>Encyclopedia of Literature in Canada</i>. Ed. William H. New. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2002. Print.</p> <p>Paranthetical reference: (Holmes 167)</p>
Dictionary or Encyclopedia - Online (p. 160 #5.5.7 & p. 192 #5.6.4)	<p>"Keats, John." <i>The Concise Oxford Companion to English Literature</i>. Ed. Margaret Drabble and Jenny Stringer. 2003. <i>Oxford Reference Online</i>. Web. 9 Feb. 2007.</p> <p>Paranthetical reference: ("Keats")</p>
Entry from Oxford English Dictionary Online. (p. 160 #5.5.7, p. 192 #5.6.4 & p. 223 #6.4.4)	<p>"Passion." Entry 1, def. 6a. <i>Oxford English Dictionary Online</i>. Oxford UP, 2013. Web. 19 Aug. 2013.</p> <p>Paranthetical reference: ("Passion," Entry 1, def. 6a)</p>

A Scholarly Edition (p. 162 #5.5.10)	Eliot, George. <i>The Mill on the Floss</i> . Ed. Oliver Lovesey. Peterborough: Broadview P, 2001. Print. Parenthetical reference: (Eliot 36)
Graphic Novel (p. 167 #5.5.12)	Yoshida, Akimi, writer and artist. <i>Banana Fish</i> . Eng. adapt. by Matt Thorn and Carl Gustav Horn. Trans. Matt Thorn. Vol. 19. San Francisco: Viz, 2004. Print. Parenthetical reference: (Yoshida 121)
Citing Indirect Source (p.226 #6.4.7) [volume and page number of a multivolume work]	Boswell, James. <i>The Life of Johnson</i> . Ed. George Birkbeck Hill and L. F. Powell. 6 vols. Oxford: Clarendon P, 1934-50. Print. Parenthetical reference: Samuel Johnson admitted that Edmund Burke was an "extraordinary man" (qtd. in Boswell 2: 450).
Dissertation: Retrieved From an Online Repository (p. 180 #5.5.26 & p. 184 #5.6.2)	Carter, Deborah Joy. "Incite, Then Delight': Investigating Needed Cooperative Informative Technology Experiences (Incite), Then Developing Experiential Learning Guided Holistic Teamwork (Delight)." MA thesis. U of British Columbia, 2010. <i>Circle</i> . Web. 22 Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: (Carter 65)
E-Book Found on library web site (p. 187 #5.6.2c)	Lawrence, Sean. <i>Forgiving the Gift: The Philosophy of Generosity in Shakespeare and Marlowe</i> . Pittsburgh: Duquesne UP, 2012. <i>Project Muse</i> . Web. 29 July 2013. Parenthetical reference: (Lawrence 53)
E-Book Google Books (p. 210 #5.7.18)	Clarke, George Elliott. "What was Canada?" <i>Is Canada Postcolonial: Unsettling Canadian Literature?</i> Ed. Laura Moss. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2003. 27-39. <i>Google Books</i> . Web. 22 Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: (Clarke 28)
E-book: Kindle reader (p. 210 #5.7.18)	Robinson, Eden. <i>Monkey Beach</i> . Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2011. Kindle file. Parenthetical reference (Robinson)
E-Book Published Before 1900: Retrieved From Online Database (p. 187 #5.6.2c & p. 178 #5.5.23) (Can omit publisher)	Defoe, Daniel. <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> . London, 1719. <i>Eighteenth-Century Fiction</i> . Web. 22 Dec. 2006. Parenthetical reference: (Defoe 28)
JOURNAL ARTICLES	
Include the issue number, whenever available, along with the volume number.	
Journal Article Retrieved From Database (p. 192 #5.6.4)	Lovesey, Oliver. "Divine Enthusiasm and Love Melancholy". <i>Eighteenth-Century Fiction</i> 16.3 (2004): 373-399. <i>Academic Search Complete</i> . Web. 24 Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: (Lovesey 397)

Journal Article Retrieve from Internet [including articles found through Summon or Google Scholar] (p. 190 #5.6.3)	Castricano, Jodey. "Learning to Talk with Ghosts: Canadian Gothic and the Poetics of Haunting in Eden Robinson's <i>Monkey Beach</i> ." <i>University of Toronto Quarterly</i> 75.2 (2006): 801-813. Web. 19 Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: (Castricano 802)
Journal Article Retrieved from Internet – no page numbers (p. 190 #5.6.3)	Keyes, Daniel. "Whites Singing Red Face in British Columbia in the 1950s." <i>Theatre Research in Canada</i> 32.1 (2011): n.pag. Web. 19. Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: (Keyes)
Magazine Article Retrieved from Internet (p. 142 #5.4.6)	"Poetry Off the Page: Canada's Top Poets to Read From Their Works at UBC Event." <i>Okanagan Life</i> . 29 July 2013. Web. 19 Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: ("Poetry")
Journal Article - Print (p. 137 #5.4.2)	Jefferess, David. "To Be Good (Again): <i>The Kite Runner</i> as Allegory of Global Ethics." <i>Journal of Postcolonial Writing</i> . 45:4 (2009): 389-400. Print. Parenthetical reference: (Jefferess 390)
Newspaper Article - Print (p. 141 #5.4.5)	Squire, J. P. "Couplet Canned by Council." <i>Daily Courier</i> [Kelowna] 20 Jan. 2004: A1+. Print. Parenthetical reference: (Squire A1)
Newspaper Article: Retrieved From Database (p. 145 #5.4.9 & p. 192 #5.6.4)	"Poet up for GG's Award." <i>Kelowna Capital News</i> . 18 Oct. 2006: A25. <i>Canadian Newsstand</i> . Web. 22 Dec. 2006. Parenthetical reference: ("Poet" A25)
Government Document Print (Dept Report) (p. 174 #5.5.20)	Canada. Health Canada. <i>Best Practices: Early Intervention, Outreach and Community Linkages for Women with Substance Use Problems</i> . [Ottawa]: Health Canada, 2006. Print. Parenthetical reference: (Canada. Health Canada 12)
Government Publication: Online (p. 174 #5.5.20, p.184 #5.6.2b and p.224 6.4.5)	Kelowna. Planning and Development Services Dept. <i>Kelowna Population Statistics</i> . City of Kelowna, n.d. Web. 16 July 2009. Parenthetical reference: (Kelowna. Planning and Development Services Dept)

WEB DOCUMENTS

Include URL when reader cannot locate source without it or when instructor requires it.

Entire Web site (p. 184 #5.6.2b)	Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies. University of British Columbia Okanagan. 25 June 2013. Web. 24 Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference (<i>Faculty</i>)
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Web site: Page [author, website and publisher are the same] (p. 184 #5.6.2b)	Project G.R.O.W. "Initiatives" <i>Project G.R.O.W.</i> Project G.R.O.W. n.d. Web. 24. Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: (Project G.R.O.W.)
Web site: Author: Page (p. 184 #5.6.2b)	Hogan, Joseph. "The Urizen Books of William Blake." <i>Voice of the Shuttle</i> . Dept of English. U of California, Santa Barbara, n.d. Web. 15 July 2009. Parenthetical reference: (Hogan)
Web site: No Author. No Date URL Required (p. 182 #5.6.1)	<i>The Intelligence of Dogs</i> . n.d. Web. 17 Oct. 2006. < http://www.petrix.com/dogint/ >. Parenthetical reference: (<i>Intelligence</i>)
Blog (p. 184 #5.6.2b)	Zach, Richard. "Teaching Logic from Historical Sources." <i>LogBlog</i> . N.p., 23 Nov. 2006. Web. 15 July 2009. Parenthetical reference: (Zach)
Facebook (p. 184 #5.6.2b)	UBC Okanagan Library. "We ♥ [Heart] Poetry." <i>Facebook.com</i> 23 July 2103. Web. 22 Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: (UBC Okanagan Library)
PowerPoint Posted to Connect (p. 210 #5.7.18)	Reeves, Margaret. <i>Images and Context for Rachel Speght's Mouzell for Melastomus</i> . <i>Eng. 349A 001 Seventeenth Century Studies: Seventeenth-Century Women's Writing. Connect</i> . U of British Columbia Okanagan. n.d. 22 Oct. 2012. PowerPoint file. Parenthetical reference: (Reeves)
Email (p. 205 #5.7.13)	Shearer, Karis. "Public Poetry Reading Aug. 1." Message to the author. 17 July 2013. E-mail. Parenthetical reference: (Shearer)

MEDIA

A Film: Feature (p. 197 #5.7.3)	<i>Hamlet</i> . Dir. Franco Zeffirelli. Perf. Mel Gibson. Warner Bros., 1990. DVD. Parenthetical reference: (<i>Hamlet</i>)
A Film: Documentary (p. 197 #5.7.3)	<i>The Tribal Mind</i> . National Film Board of Canada, 1994. Videocassette. Parenthetical reference: (<i>Tribal</i>)
Television Program (p. 193 #5.7.1)	"Money, Truth and Spin." Narr. Linden MacIntyre. <i>The Fifth Estate</i> . CBC, Toronto, 8 Feb. 2006. Television. Parenthetical reference: ("Money")

Twitter (p. 210 #5.7.18) (p. 219 #6.4.1)	Thorne, Laura. "Can your social media activities get you in trouble?" 18 April 2013, 9:09 p.m. Tweet. In the main text of the paper, a tweet is cited in its entirety.
YouTube - Video Clip Posted to an Internet Site (p. 189 #5.6.2d)	ubcolibrary. "UBC's Okanagan Library – Aboriginal Programs & Services Partnership." <i>YouTube</i> . 25 Mar. 2013. Web. 20 Aug. 2013. Parenthetical reference: (ubcolibrary)
Podcast - Audio Clip (p. 189 #5.6.2d)	"New Eco Books: Feature Interviews with Margaret Atwood." 4 June 2010. <i>Alternatives Environmental Ideas and Action</i> . Web. 8 Aug. 2011. Parenthetical reference: ("New")
Include parenthetical references in the essay for all images of art works.	
Exhibit in a Gallery (p. 200 #5.7.6)	Johnston, Byron, and Bryan Ryley. <i>Here and There II</i> . 2006. U of British Columbia Okanagan FINA Gallery, Kelowna. Parenthetical reference: (Johnston and Ryley)
Painting: Retrieved From Online Database (p. 200 #5.7.6 & p. 189 #5.6.2d)	Monet, Claude. <i>Haystacks</i> . 1890. Art Institute of Chicago. <i>ARTstor</i> . Web. 22 Dec. 2006. Parenthetical reference: (Monet)
Image: Retrieved from Web (p. 189 #5.6.2 & p. 200 # 5.7.6)	Lee, John S.Y. <i>Globe Theatre, London</i> . 30 May 2009. <i>Flickr</i> . Yahoo! Web. 17 Aug. 2011. Parenthetical reference: (Lee)

OTHER SOURCES

Interview: Conducted by Researcher (p. 202 #5.7.7)	Milton, Paul. Personal Interview. 15 Dec. 2006. Parenthetical reference: (Milton)
Class Lecture (p. 203 #5.7.11)	Senger, Lainie. "Historical Backgrounds to <i>Beowulf</i> ." Eng. 153. Readings in Narrative. U of British Columbia Okanagan. 27 May 2009. Class lecture. Parenthetical reference: (Senger)
Custom Course Materials: Reprinted from Another Source (p. 159 #5.5.6)	Williams, William Carlos. "Raleigh was Right." <i>The Collected Poems of William Carlos Williams</i> . Vol 2. New York: New Directions, 1986. Rpt. in <i>Custom Course Materials: ENGL 150</i> . Ed. Sean Lawrence. Kelowna: U of British Columbia Okanagan, 2006. 68. Print. Parenthetical reference: (Williams 68)

Start your Works Cited section on a new page and double space all entries. Put title Works Cited in the centre of the page.

Works Cited

Entries must be arranged in alphabetical order.

Castricano, Jodey. "Learning to Talk with Ghosts: Canadian Gothic and the Poetics of Haunting in Eden Robinson's *Monkey Beach*." *University of Toronto Quarterly* 75.2 (2006): 801-813. Web. 19 Aug. 2013.

Eliot, George. *The Mill on the Floss*. Ed. Oliver Lovesey. Peterborough: Broadview P, 2001. Print.

Hamlet. Dir. Franco Zeffirelli. Perf. Mel Gibson. Warner Bros., 1990. DVD.

The Intelligence of Dogs. n.d. Web. 17 Oct. 2006 <<http://www.petrix.com/dogint/>>.

Jefferess, David. "To Be Good (Again): *The Kite Runner* as Allegory of Global Ethics". *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* 45.4 (2009): 389-400. Print.

Kelowna. Planning and Development Services Dept. *Kelowna Population Statistics*. City of Kelowna, n.d. Web. 16 July 2009.

Lawrence, Sean. *Forgiving the Gift: The Philosophy of Generosity in Shakespeare and Marlowe*.

Pittsburgh: Duquesne UP, 2012. *Project Muse*. Web. 29 July 2013.

Loughlin, Marie H, Sandra Bell, and Patricia Brace, eds. *The Broadview Anthology of Sixteenth-Century Poetry and Prose*. Peterborough: Broadview P, 2012. Print.

Okanagan Writers' League. *A Few Loose Feathers: An Anthology*. Penticton: Sabre, 1994. Print.

"Passion." Entry 1, def. 6a. *Oxford English Dictionary Online*. Oxford UP, 2013. Web. 19 Aug. 2013.

Thorne, Laura. "Can your social media activities get you in trouble?" 18 April 2013, 9:09 p.m. Tweet.

Williams, William Carlos. "Raleigh was Right." *The Collected Poems of William Carlos Williams*. Vol 2.

New York: New Directions, 1986. Rpt. in *Custom Course Materials: ENGL 150*. Ed. Sean Lawrence. Kelowna: U of British Columbia Okanagan, 2006. 68. Print.

Format work cited entries with a **hanging indent** (in MS Word use Page Layout>Paragraph>Special> Hanging).