



Documentation Guide (MLA)

The purpose of this guide is to provide writers with a basic introduction to **MLA citation style**. It is based on **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers** (4th ed., New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1995).

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1. PARAENTHETICAL REFERENCES IN THE TEXT

Parenthetical documentation tells a reader what you borrowed from a source and exactly where in that source you found the information. A complete reference must appear in the **list of works cited** at the end of your paper. Some examples of parenthetical references follow.

Usually, the author's last name and a page reference are enough to identify the source and specific location from which you borrowed the material:

In response to rapid metropolitan expansion, urban renewal projects sought "an order in which more significant kinds of conflict, more complex and intellectually stimulating kinds of disharmony, may take place" (Mumford 485).

If there are two or three authors, include the last name of each:

(Gilbert and Gubar 127)
(Rabkin, Greenberg, and Olander 25)

If there are more than three authors, include the last name of the first author followed by et al. without any intervening punctuation:

(Lauter et al. 2435-44)

If the author is mentioned in the text, only the page reference need be inserted:

Mumford has argued the point (178-235).

2. USING NOTES WITH PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES

Two types of notes may be used with parenthetical documentation: content notes and bibliographic notes. Content notes offer the reader comment, explanation, or information that the text cannot accommodate. Bibliographic notes contain either several sources or evaluative comments on sources. For further explanation and examples, see the **MLA Handbook**, pages 202-205.

3. LIST OF WORKS CITED

A list of works cited contains all the works cited in your text. The list simplifies documentation by permitting you to make only brief references to these works in the text. Following are some examples:
NOTE: In the LIST OF WORKS CITED in your paper, you should use underlining for all elements that appear in italics in the following examples.

Book with One Author:

Mumford, Lewis. *The Culture of Cities*. New York: Harcourt, 1938.

Two or More Books from the Same Author:

Carr, Emily. *The Book of Small*. Toronto: Clarke, 1942. ---, *The House of All Sorts*. Toronto: Oxford UP, 1944.

Book with Two or Three Authors:

Conrad, Margaret, Alvin Finkel, and Cornelius Jaenen. *History of the Canadian Peoples*. Mississauga: Copp Clarke Pitman, 1993.
An Anthology or a Compilation: Lopate, Phillip, ed. *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present*. New York: Anchor-Doubleday, 1994.

Essay in a Book:

Calvino, Italo. "Cybernetics and Ghosts." *The Uses of Literature: Essays*. Trans. Patrick Creagh. San Diego: Harcourt, 1982. 3-27.

An Introduction, Preface, Forward, or Afterword of a Book:

Sayers, Dorothy. Introduction. *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, the Florentine*. By Dante Alighieri. Trans. Dorothy Sayers and Barbara Reynolds. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1949. 9-69.

A Translation:

Roy, Gabrielle. *The Tin Flute*. Trans. Hannah Josephson. New York: Reynal & Hitchcock, 1947.
Article in an Encyclopedia, Signed: Roche, Douglas. "Peace Movement." *Canadian Encyclopedia*. Ed. James Marsh. 4 vols. Edmonton: Hurtig, 1988.

Article in a Journal

Craner, Paul M. "New Tool for an Ancient Art: The Computer and Music." *Computers and the Humanities* 25 (1991): 303-13.

Article in a Magazine or Newspaper:

Rybczynski, Witold. "Designs for Escape." *New Yorker* : 16 Oct. 1995: 160-63.

A Review:

Kauffmann, Stanley. "A New Spielberg." Rev. of *Schindler's List* . dir. Steven Spielberg. *New Republic* 13 Dec. 1993: 30.

A Film:

It's a Wonderful Life . Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946.

If you are citing the contribution of a particular individual, begin with that person's name:

Chaplin, Charles, dir. *Modern Times* Perf. Chaplin and Paulette Godard. United Artists, 1936.

A Television or Radio Program:

"Nirvana in Nova Scotia." Narr. Arthur Kent. *Man Alive* . CBC Television. 2 Feb. 1995.

Video Recordings:

By Woman's Hand . By Pepita Ferrari and Erna Buffie. Prod. Merit Jensen Carr, Pepita Ferrari, Kent Martin. Videocassette. NFB, 1994.

Sound Recordings:

Holiday, Billie. "God Bless the Child." Rec. 9 May 1941. *The Essence of Billie Holiday* . Columbia, 1991.

Musical Composition, Published Score:

Beethoven, Ludwig van. *Symphony No. 8 in F. Op. 93* . New York: Dover, 1989.

Works of Art, Photographed, in a Book:

Cassat, Mary. *Mother and Child* . 1890. Wichita Art Museum, Wichita. *American Painting: 1560-1913* . By John Pearce. New York: McGraw, 1964. Slide 22.