MLA (Modern Languages Association)

The MLA style manual is generally used for humanities courses. Like all style manuals, it has its unique ways of handling citations, parenthetical citations, bibliographies, and other formatting structures.

We have a print copy of the latest edition at the service desk that can be used any time.

You can also use the Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab) – this is an excellent resource for quick searches with reliable answers. They keep the site updated to reflect the most recent editions of the various style manuals.

Here’s their MLA site: Purdue OWL – MLA
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Citation Examples

Journal Citations

Here is the format for a journal citation, and an example:

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical > Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.


And a journal accessed from an online database:


*Hint: Most databases like EBSCO have a "Cite" button that will allow you to choose the right style manual. You always want to double–check it, of course, but it’s a start.*

Book Citations

Here is the format for a book citation, and an example:

Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

For a print book:


Other Citations
Here is an example of an interview citation (this is for an interview you've conducted yourself, known as a personal interview):


**Parenthetical Citations**

Here is an example of proper parenthetical citations:

With a quote: "You must note the author's last name and page number if available" (Jones 263).

If you reference the author: According to Jones, you must note the page number if available (263).

**MLA Bibliographies**

MLA bibliographies should be **alphabetized and have hanging indents**. Here is an example of the previous citation examples in proper order and format:


