



MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Jean Burr Smith Library

# MLA

## Citation Guide

In this guide, you will find examples of the most commonly-used formats. Some examples come from The Writing Lab & OWL at Purdue University ([owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/))

You can also find this guide—and more helpful resources—at **Help With Your Research** on our website ([www.mxcc.edu/library](http://www.mxcc.edu/library)).

For additional help, contact us:

- **Email:** [mx-library@mxcc.edu](mailto:mx-library@mxcc.edu)
- **Phone:** 860.343.5830
- **Visit:** Chapman Hall, Main Floor  
Middlesex Community College  
100 Training Hill Road, Middletown, CT 06457

## ~In-Text Citations~

### What do you cite?

- ◆ The author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must be in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page.
- ◆ Any source information that you provide **in-text must match** the source information on the Works Cited page. Also, whatever signal word or phrase you provide to your readers in the text, must be the first thing that appears in the matching entry in the Works Cited List (for example, the author or title).

### How should it look?

- ◆ Use **parenthetical citation**. This means putting important source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase.
- ◆ The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. For example:
  - ⇒ Badke stated "Many faculty members view writing as a significant issue for undergraduate and graduate students" (2).
  - ⇒ Research has shown that "Many faculty members view writing as a significant issue for undergraduate and graduate students" (Badke 2).
  - ⇒ Badke's research shows that faculty believe that writing is a major issue for undergraduate students(2).

Any of above correspond with the Works Cited entry:

Badke, William. *Teaching Research Processes: The Faculty Role in the Development of Student Researchers*. London: Chandos Publishing, 2012. Print.

- ◆ **Multiple citations:** To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon.
  - . . . as has been discussed elsewhere (Davis 6; Johnson 27).
- ◆ **Sources without page numbers:** Include in the text the first item that appears in the Work Cited entry that corresponds to the citation (e.g. author name, article name, website name, film name). You do not need to give page numbers.
  - (Thomson)
- ◆ **Long quotations:** For quotations that are more than four lines of prose or three lines of verse, place quotations in a free-standing block of text and omit quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented **one inch** from the left margin; maintain double-spacing.

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the

- ◆ **Citing indirect sources:** If what you quote or paraphrase is itself a quotation, cite the work YOU looked at.  
Samuel Johnson said that Burke was an “extraordinary man” (qtd in Boswell 45).

### Title Rules

- ◆ Italicize the titles of longer works such as books, edited collections, movies, television series, documentaries, or albums.  
*Bowling for Columbine; The Hunger Games; or Friends*
- ◆ Put quotation marks around the titles of shorter works such as journal articles, articles from edited collections, television series episodes, and song titles.  
"Home" or "The One Where Chandler Can't Cry"

### Author Rules

- ◆ **Work by multiple authors:**
  - ◇ For a source with 3 or fewer authors, list all the authors' last names  
(Purkey, Johnson, and Gregory 16)
  - ◇ For more than 3 authors, provide the first author's last name, followed by et al. (Sherman et al. 4)
- ◆ **Unknown author:** When a source has no known author, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name.  
The American Civil Liberties Union expressed concern that the suspect was not read his Miranda Rights. Investigators are “citing public safety exception to Miranda Rights, saying they needed to know if there were any other threats to the public” (“Bombing Suspect Not Read His Miranda Rights”).  
The above corresponds with the Works Cited entry:  
“Bombing Suspect Not Read His Miranda Rights.” *ABC News Channel 9WSYR*. 22 Apr. 2013. Web. 22 Apr. 2013.
- ◆ **Authors with the same last name,** provide both authors' first initials (or the authors' full name if different authors share initials) in your citation. (K. Smith 14) or (R. Smith 18)
- ◆ **Multiple works by the same author:** If you cite more than one work by a particular author, include a shortened title for the particular work from which you are quoting to distinguish it from the others.  
(Battersby, "Cool It" 12)
- ◆ **Organization as an author:** If the author is an organization or a government agency, mention the organization in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation the first time you cite the source.  
According to the American Medical Association,...  
If the organization has a well-known abbreviation, include the abbreviation in brackets the first time the source is cited and then use only the abbreviation in later citations.  
First citation: (National Rifle Association [NRA], 13)  
Later citations: (NRA, 13)

## ~ Works Cited Page (Bibliography)~

### General rules

- ◆ **Title the list “Works Cited.”** Centered, same size font as rest of paper.
- ◆ Include only sources that you have quoted, summarized, or paraphrased. If it is cited in your paper, it must have an entry on the Works Cited page
- ◆ List the items **alphabetically by author last name**, regardless of format. If no author is given, start with the first word of the title (other than A, An, or The).
- ◆ If you cannot find some of the required information, cite what is available.
- ◆ Most entries include either “print” or “web” to indicate format.
- ◆ Abbreviate the names of all months except May, June, and July.
- ◆ **Double space all lines.**
- ◆ **Indent the second and following lines 1/2 inch**, which is called a “hanging indent.” To do so in Microsoft Word:
  1. Highlight your citation list.
  2. Right-click and select “Paragraph.”
  3. In the Indentation section, select “Hanging” from the Special menu.
  4. Click “OK.”

### Author rules

- ◆ **One author:** Last name, First name.  
Smith, John
- ◆ **2-3 authors:** Last name, First name, and First name Last name.  
Doe, Jane, John Smith and Derek Jeter
- ◆ **More than 3 authors:** Provide the first author only, followed by et al.  
Quirk, Randolph, et al.

## SAMPLE WORKS CITED PAGE

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### Works Cited

- Battersby, Stephen. "Cool It." *New Scientist* 215.2883 (2012): 30-35. *GreenFILE*. Web. 22 Apr. 2013.
- Flannery, Tim. *The Weather Makers: How Man is Changing the Climate and What it Means for Life on Earth*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2005. Print.
- Guo, Shiwei, et al. "Net Annual Global Warming Potential And Greenhouse Gas Intensity In Chinese Double Rice-Cropping Systems: A 3-Year Field Measurement In Long-Term Fertilizer Experiments." *Global Change Biology* 17.6 (2011): 2196-2210. *GreenFILE*. Web. 22 Apr. 2013.
- An Inconvenient Truth*. Dir. Davis Guggenheim. Paramount Home Entertainment, 2006. DVD.
- Revkin, Andrew. "Study Charts 2,000 Years of Continental Climate Change." *The New York Times* 22 Apr. 2013. Web. 29 Apr. 2013.
- Schneider, Stephen. "Dangerous Climate Change: Key Vulnerabilities." *Global Warming: Looking Beyond Kyoto*. Ed. Ernesto Zedillo. Washington DC: Brookings Institute Press, 2008. *ebrary*. Web. 22 Apr. 2013.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Learn the Issues*. EPA. 15 Apr. 2013. Web. 22 Apr. 2013.

## ~ From a Library Database ~

### Scholarly Journal Article

Leary, Francis. "Robespierre: The Meaning of Virtue." *Virginia Quarterly Review* 72.1 (1996): 104-122. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 20 July 2012.

Author: Leary, Francis  
 Article Title: "Robespierre: The Meaning of Virtue."  
 Journal Title: *Virginia Quarterly Review*  
 Volume. Issue: 72.1  
 Year: (1996)  
 Pages: 104-122  
 Database: *Academic Search Premier*  
 Date of Access: Web. 20 July 2012.

### Magazine or Newspaper Article

Rice, Linda Johnson. "The Greener, the Better." *Organic Gardening* Aug 2007: 14-15. *Academic Onefile*. Web. 15 June 2011.

Author: Rice, Linda Johnson  
 Article Title: "The Greener, the Better."  
 Magazine/Paper Title: *Organic Gardening*  
 Date: Aug 2007  
 Pages: 14-15  
 Database: *Academic Onefile*  
 Date of Access: Web. 15 June 2011.

### Reference Entry

"personality disorder." *The Penguin Dictionary of Psychology*. London: Penguin, 2009. *Credo Reference*. Web. 04 Aug. 2010.

Entry Title: "personality disorder."  
 Reference Work Title: *The Penguin Dictionary of Psychology*  
 Place of Publication: London  
 Publisher: Penguin  
 Date: 2009  
 Database: *Credo Reference*  
 Date of Access: Web. 04 Aug. 2010.

### Electronic book

Albo, Greg, Sam Gindin, and Leo Panitch. *In and Out of Crisis*. Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2010. *ebrary*. Web. 4 Aug. 2011.

Author(s): Albo, Greg, Sam Gindin, and Leo Panitch  
 eBook Title: *In and Out of Crisis*  
 Place of Publication: Oakland, CA  
 Publisher: PM Press  
 Date: 2010  
 Database: *ebrary*  
 Date of Access: Web. 4 Aug. 2011.

### Image

"heart." *The Macmillan Encyclopedia*. Basingstoke: Macmillan Publishers Ltd, 2003. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 04 Sep. 2013.

Image: "heart."  
 Source Title: *The Macmillan Encyclopedia*  
 Place of Publication: Basingstoke  
 Publisher: Macmillan Publishers Ltd  
 Date: 2003  
 Database: *Gale Virtual Reference Library*  
 Date of Access: Web. 04 Sep. 2013.

## ~From the Internet~

If no date found, write (n.d.).

**Website** (For additional examples, refer to mxcc.edu/library > Help with your Research.)

Author: United States Environmental Protection Agency. Website: *Ground Water and Drinking Water*.  
 Sponsor: EPA. Pub. Date: 29 June 2011. Date of Access: Web. 20 July 2012.

**Article from an Online Newspaper**

Author: Johnston, Lloyd. Article Title: "Monitoring the future: National results on adolescent drug use."  
 Title of Newspaper: *New York Times Online*. Pub. Date: 5 May 2010. Date of Access: Web. 4 Aug. 2011.

**TV/Radio Program**

Episode/Segment Title: "Why Prosecutors Do Not Go After Wall Street." Program: *Fresh Air*. Host: Terry Gross.  
 Network/Station: Natl. Public Radio. Broadcast Date: 14 July 2011. Website: *NPR.org*. Date of Access: Web. 18 July 2013.

**Image/Artwork**

Author: Cloix, Emmanuel. Image Title: "Horses Running by Water." Website: *Wikimedia Commons*.  
 Sponsor: Wikimedia Foundation. Pub. Date: Jan. 1991. Date of Access: Web. 6 Feb. 2013.

**Video**

Author: Shimabukuro, Jake. Image Title: "Ukulele Weeps." Website: *YouTube*. Sponsor: YouTube.  
 Pub. Date: 22 Apr. 2006. Date of Access: Web. 9 Dec. 2012.

## ~Other~

**Print Book**

Author: Diacu, Frank. Book Title: *Megadisasters: The Science of Predicting the Next Catastrophe*. Place of Publication: Princeton.  
 Publisher: Princeton UP. Year: 2013. Print.

**Article or Chapter within a Print Anthology or Textbook**

Author: Shirkey, Clay. Article Title: "Everyone is a Media Outlet: Discussion." Book Title: *The Little, Brown Reader*.  
 Editor: First name: Ed. Last name: Marcia. Place of Publication: Glenview. Publisher: Pearson. Year: 2012. Pages: 416-422. Print.

**DVD**

Title: *An Inconvenient Truth*. Director: Dir. David Guggenheim. Studio: Paramount Home Entertainment,  
 Date: 2006. DVD.

**In-Class Lecture (including PowerPoint presentations)**

Presenter: Wallace, Judith. Presentation Title: "The Endocrine System." Location: Middlesex CC. Date: 2 June 2013. Lecture.

**Personal Communication (e.g., interview or email)**

Person: Liu, Lan. Date: 14 July 2011.