



MLA referencing guide

The MLA citation style uses parenthetical (in-text) citations to identify an alphabetical list of references (Works Cited list) that appears at the end of the paper. The style uses a template of core elements common to most sources, such as author, title and publication date.

This guide is a **guide only**. You may need to confirm specific referencing requirements for assignments with your lecturer or tutor.

When you refer to someone else's work, you need to include a reference to that work in two places:

- **In-text citation:** this is a short reference in your document, generally at the end of the relevant sentence or paragraph. It consists of the author's family name and the page number for direct quotes (and where possible for other citations) inside a pair of brackets.
- In the **Works Cited list:** this is a complete list, in alphabetical order by author, of all the works you referenced in-text. The references give full details of each source.

Formatting titles

Major titles should be in italics or underlined, like *This* or This. Major titles include independently published works and large bodies of work (such as novels, books, feature films, whole television series, and some long poems).

Minor titles should be in double quotation marks like "This". Minor titles include sections within larger works (such as stories, chapters, articles in journals, poems, individual television episodes, and short poems in anthologies).

In-text citations

In an **in-text citation**, provide the author's family name, followed by the year of publication. Enclose them in brackets at the end of your sentence. Include a page number where possible, especially if you are quoting directly from a source.

An in-text reference looks like this: It has been claimed that... (Author #).

It could also look like this: Author claims that... (#).

If there is **more than one entry by the same author** in the list of Works Cited, they should be distinguished within the text by a shortened title after the author's name. For example, (Silverman 'Fragments,' 143).

If quoting from a **Shakespearean play**, give reference by Act, Scene, and Line, rather than by page. For example, (III.ii.27-30). Other plays, such as contemporary works, should be referenced by page number if there are no line numbers.

Quotations longer than four lines should be indented and do not require inverted commas. Shorter quotations should not be indented and do require inverted commas.

Works Cited list

Your List of Works Cited should appear on a new page at the end of your essay. You should cite only the works you have quoted, or to which you directly refer in your essay (not everything you may have read).

The list should be in **alphabetical order**, with no bullets, numbering, subheadings or subdivisions, and in the paragraph style of 'hanging indent.'

List only those texts to which you have made direct reference in your essay. This is **not** a list of everything you have read. It should include all primary texts as well as secondary sources. Even if you have not used any critical works you should still have a list of Works Cited.

In your **Works Cited list**, you usually include, in this order:

- Author's family name
- Author's first name
- Title of article or book, etc.
- Publication details (journal information, publisher information)
- Year of publication

Here is a generic example for a journal article with two authors:

Author, FirstName, and Author, FirstName. "Article title in between quotation marks". *Journal Title in Italics with Capitals* ##.## [that is, volume no.issue no] (Year): ##-## [that is, page numbers]. *Title of database in italics*. Medium of publication. Date of access.

Information needed

When gathering your material, make sure you take note of the following:

For books

1. Author
2. *Title of the Publication, Including Subtitle (italics or underline)*, taken from the title page, not the
3. cover
4. Place of publication (usually a city: look on the page after the title page)
5. Publisher (eg Penguin, Routledge, W.W. Norton, Oxford U.P. [means "University Press"]).
6. Year of publication (look on the page after the title page)
7. Medium of publication (eg print, web etc) and date of access for online resources.

For chapters or essays in edited books

1. Author of the chapter / essay
2. "Title of the chapter" (in inverted commas)
3. *Title of the Book (italics or underline)*, taken from the title page, not the cover
4. Editor of the book
5. Place of publication of the book
6. Year of publication of the book
7. First and last pages of the chapter
8. Medium of publication (eg print, web etc) and date of access for online resources.

For articles in journals

1. Author of the article
2. "Title of the article" (in inverted commas)
3. *Title of the Journal (italics or underline)*
4. Volume and issue numbers.
5. (Year of publication) (in brackets)
6. First and last pages on which the article appears.
7. Medium of publication (eg print, web etc) and date of access for online resources.

Follow the advice on the following pages for various types of sources. Please pay special attention to the punctuation.

Books

Single author

Author's family name, First name or initials. *Title [in italics]*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Medium of publication.

Shorten the Publisher information by leaving out terms like 'Books', 'Pty', 'Ltd' and shortening 'University Press' to UP

Example

Sallis, Eva. *Hiam*. Sydney: Allen, 1998. Print.

Book that has been published in more than one edition

Author's family name, First name or initials. *Title [in italics]*. Number of edition Ed. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Medium of publication.

Example

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves that matter in Academic Writing*. 2nd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2010. Print.

Single-author book that has been republished

Author's family name, First name or initials. *Title [in italics]*. Original date of publication. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Medium of publication.

Example

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. 1902. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1973. Print.

Translation

Same as a book, except translator's first name or initials followed by surname follows the title. Original publication date can be added before publication details.

Author's family name, First name or initials. *Title [in italics]*. Trans. Translator's First Name or initials followed by Family name. Year of original publication. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Medium of publication.

Example

Bashkirtseff, Marie. *The Journal of Marie Bashkirtseff*. Trans. Mathilde Blind. 1890. London: Virago, 1985. Print.

Smaller works within a book

Chapter in a book edited by another

Author's family name, First name or initials. "Title" [of chapter in quotation marks]. *Title [of book in italics]*. Ed. Editor's First name or initials followed by Family name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Page numbers of chapter or essay [no pp.]. Medium of publication.

Example

Silvermann, Kaja. "Fragments of a Fashionable Discourse". *Studies in Entertainment: Critical Approaches to Mass Culture*. Ed. Tania Modleski. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1986. 139-152. Print.

More than one author, chapter in an edited book. More than one author of book

Same as in chapter of a book edited by another, except only the first author has the surname before the first name as it is just for the purpose of alphabetical order.

Author's family name, First name or initials, and second author's First name Family Name. "Title" [of chapter in quotation marks]. *Title [of book in italics]*. Ed. Editor's First name or initials followed by Family name and second editor's First name Family name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Page numbers of chapter or essay [no pp.]. Medium of publication.

Example

McRobbie, Angela, and Jenny Garber. "Girls and Subcultures". *Resistance Through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Post-War Britain*. Ed. Stuart Hall and Tony Jefferson. London: Hutchinson, 1976. 209-222. Print.

Short story

Author's family name, First name or initials. "Title" [of story in quotation marks]. *Title [of book in italics]* Author or editor's name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Pagination [no pp.]. Medium of publication.

Example

Carey, Peter. "American Dreams". *The Faber Book of Contemporary Australian Short Stories*. London: Faber, 1988. 331-342. Print.

Short poem

Author's family name, First name or initials. "Title" [of poem in quotation marks]. *Title [of collection of poems in italics]*. Ed. Editor's First name or initials followed by Family name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Pagination [no pp.]. Medium of publication.

Example

Plath, Sylvia. "The Colossus". *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. Ed. Margaret Ferguson, Mary Jo Salter and Jon Stallworthy. New York: Norton, 1996. 1728. Print.

Long poem

Same as in short poem, except *Title [in italics]*.

Author's family name, First name or initials. *Title [of poem in italics]*. *Title [of collection of poems in italics]*. Ed. Editor's First name or initials followed by Family name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Pagination [no pp.]. Medium of publication.

Example

Milton, John. *Paradise Lost. Paradise Lost and Selected Poetry and Prose*. Ed. Northrop Frye. New York: Holt, 1951. Print.

Journals / magazines / newspapers

Single-author journal article

Author's family name, First name or initials. "Title" [of article in quotation marks]. *Title [of journal in italics]*. Volume.Issue [use Arabic numerals even if journal uses Roman] (Year of publication) [in brackets]: Pagination [no pp.]. Medium of publication.

Example

Mulvey, Laura. "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema". *Screen* 16.3 (1975): 6-18. Print.

or

Meyer, Rosalind S. "Mr Knightley's Education: Parallels in *Emma*". *English Studies* 79 (1998): 212-223. Web. 7 July 2022.

Journal article from an online database

Author's family name, First name or initials. "Title" [of article in quotation marks]. *Title [of journal in italics]*. Volume.Issue [use Arabic numerals even if journal uses Roman] (Year of publication) [in brackets]: Pagination [no pp.]. *Title [of database in italics]*. Medium of publication. Date of access.

Example

Ringel, Faye. "The Art of Patricia McKillip: Music and Magic". *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* 16.3 (2005): 178-190. Web. *MLA International Bibliography*. 18 February 2022.

Article in a magazine

Author's family name, First name or initials. "Title" [of article in quotation marks]. *Title [of magazine in italics]*. Date of publication. Pagination [no pp.]. Medium of publication.

Example

Mayer, John. "Jimi Hendrix". *Rolling Stone*. July 2004. 38. Print.

Article in a newspaper

Author's family name, First name or initials. "Title" [of article in quotation marks]. *Title [of newspaper in italics]* Date of publication: Pagination [no pp.]. Medium of publication.

Example

Holgate, Ben. "Cannes Nominee is Danced to Her Seat". *The Weekend Australian* 16-17 May 1998: 10. Print.

Other print works

A play

Author's Family name, First name or initials. *Title [of play in italics]*. [Insert Editor's name if there is one]. Place of publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Medium of publication.

Example

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. Ed. Frank Kermode. London: Methuen, 1962. Print.

Unpublished thesis/dissertation

Author's Family name, First name or initials. "Title" [in quotation marks]. Diss. Name of conferring institution, Year of completion. Medium of publication.

Example

Boyle, Anthony T. "The Epistemological Evolution of Renaissance Utopian Literature: 1516-1657". Diss. New York U, 1983. Web. 16 December 2011.

Audiovisual

Film

Title [of film in italics]. Dir. Director's name. [Writer, performers and producer may be included here]. Distributor, Date. Medium of publication.

Example

The Silence of the Lambs. Dir. Jonathan Demme. Columbia Tristar, 1991. Film.

or

The Silence of the Lambs. Dir. Jonathan Demme. With Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins and Scott Glenn. Columbia Tristar, 1991. Film.

Television episode

"Title of the episode" [in quotation marks and only if relevant]. *Title [of series in italics and if relevant]*. The local station, City. Date of broadcast. Medium of publication.

Example

"Loose Ends". *Blue Heelers*. Channel 7, Adelaide. 9 February 2000. Television.

Recorded song

Performer's name. "Title of song" [in quotation marks]. *Album title [in italics]*. Recording label, Date. Medium of publication.

Example

Spice Girls. "Wannabe". *SPICE*. Virgin Records, 1996. CD.

Recorded album

Performer's name. *Album title [in italics]*. Producer [if significant]. Recording company, Date. Medium of publication.

Example

Smashing Pumpkins. *Melloncollie and the Infinite Sadness*. Prod. Flood, Alan Mulder and Billy Corgan. Hut Recordings, 1995. CD.

Recorded file

Composer or performer's name. *Title [in italics]*. Name of recording manufacturer, Date of publication. Medium of publication.

Example

Beethoven, Ludwig van. *Moonlight Sonata*. Crownstar, 2006. MP3.

Online

Website

Author's Family name, First name or initials [if available]. *Title [in italics]*. Name of publishing organisation. Date of publication. Medium of publication. Date accessed.

Some lecturers may require you to include the URLs of any online sources you access in your List of Works Cited. You can find information on the correct way to do this using MLA referencing [here](#). This site also contains information on how to cite a range of nonstandard texts including images, interviews, emails and tweets.

Example

McCreary, Bear. *Bear McCreary | Composer of Film, Television, and Video Games Scores*. State of the Design. 2021. Web. 19 February 2022.

Page within a website

Author's Family name, First name or initials [if available]. "Title of webpage" [in quotation marks]. *Title of website [in italics]*. Name of publishing organisation. Date of publication. Medium of publication. Date accessed.

Some lecturers may require you to include the URLs of any online sources you access in your List of Works Cited. You can find information on the correct way to do this using MLA referencing [here](#). This site also contains information on how to cite a range of nonstandard texts including images, interviews, emails and tweets.

Example

McCreary, Bear. "Outlander: Season 5". *Bear McCreary | Composer of Film, Television, and Video Games Scores*. State of the Design. 2020. Web. 16 December 2021.

Other

Lecture

Author's Family name, First name or initials. "Title" [in quotation marks]. Name of course. Place delivered. Date delivered/accessed.

Example

Treagus, Mandy. "Great Expectations Lecture Two". Introduction to English: Ideas of the Real. University of Adelaide. 15 Mar 2022.