

GUIDE TO REFERENCING IN YOUR ESSAYS MLA STYLE
Discipline of English and Creative Writing
University of Adelaide

GENERAL HINTS - IMPORTANT

1. Take this advice seriously. 2. Number the pages in your essay. 3. Use a font size of twelve. 4. Don't use coloured print. 5. Don't use subheadings within the essay. 6. Use double spacing.

CORRECT REFERENCING

There are TWO elements to correct referencing:

- 1) acknowledging your source *within* the essay, and
- 2) creating a list of 'Works Cited', which comes at the end.

Different Disciplines use different methods for this. This can be annoying but it is an important part of scholarly practice. In English and Creative Writing, the method we usually use is called the MLA style. All work presented in the English Discipline should be in this style. This is a short guide to using this method.

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 (novels, books, feature films, whole television series, some long poems) have their titles italicized or underlined;

Minor titles should be in double inverted commas, like "This". Minor titles include:

- sections within larger works (stories, chapters, articles in journals, poems, individual television episodes, short poems in anthologies).

WITHIN THE ESSAY

You must acknowledge every idea, or quotation from another source, even if it is only a phrase. When referring to an author's ideas or directly quoting their words, only the author's name and the page number are necessary, e.g. (Silverman 143). Do not use 'p.' or 'pp.' or insert a comma.

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, e.g. (Silverman 'Fragments,' 143). Otherwise, **only the author and page number are required** or desired. Avoid repeating the author's name if it has already been mentioned, e.g. 'As Silverman argues, 'blah, blah, blah' (143). [No need to repeat Silverman.]

If quoting from a Shakespearian play, give reference by Act, Scene, and Line, rather than by page, e.g. (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.

CREATING A LIST OF 'WORKS CITED' AT THE END

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'.**

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 title page, not the cover
3. Place of publication (Usually a city: look behind the title page)
4. Publisher (eg Penguin, Routledge, W.W. Norton, Oxford U.P. [means “University Press”]).
5. Year of publication (look behind the title page)
6. 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.

Here’s how to format various kinds of sources.

Please take note of the punctuation.

A single-author book

Author’s surname comma first name or initials full stop *title* [in italics] full stop place of publication colon publisher [shortened form: leave out terms like ‘Books’, ‘Pty’, ‘Ltd’ and shorten University Press to UP] comma date of publication full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

A book that has been published in more than one edition

Author’s surname comma first name or initials full stop *title* [in italics] full stop number of edition Ed full stop place of publication colon publisher comma date of publication full stop medium of publication full stop

For 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.

A single-author book that has been republished

Author’s surname comma first name or initials full stop *title* [in italics] full stop original date of publication full stop place of publication colon publisher comma date of publication full stop medium of publication

For example:

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

A chapter in a book edited by another

Author’s surname comma first name or initials full stop “title” [of chapter in double inverted commas] full stop *title* [of book in italics] full stop Ed. editor’s first name or initials followed by surname full stop place of publication colon publisher comma date of publication full stop page numbers of chapter or essay [no pp.] full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

Silverman, Kaja. "Fragments of a Fashionable Discourse". *Studies in Entertainment: Critical Approaches to Mass Culture*. Ed. Tania Modleski. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1986. 139-52. Print.

A short story

Author's surname comma first name or initials full stop "title" [of story in double inverted commas] full stop *title* [of book in italics] author or editor's name full stop place of publication colon publisher comma date of publication full stop pagination full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

A single-author journal article

Author's surname comma first name or initials full stop "title" [of article in double inverted commas] full stop *title* [of journal in italics] volume stop number [use Arabic numerals even if journal uses Roman] (year of publication) [in brackets] colon pagination full stop medium of publication full stop

For 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): 212-23. Web. 7 July 2012.

A journal article from an online database

Author's surname comma first name or initials full stop "title" [of article in double inverted commas] full stop *title* [of journal in italics] volume number full stop issue number (year of publication) [in brackets] colon pagination full stop *title* [of database in italics] full stop medium of publication full stop date of access full stop

For 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 2013.

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

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

For 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. 209-22. Print.

A 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.

For example:

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

A short poem

Author's surname comma first name or initials full stop "title" [in double inverted commas] *title* [of collection of poems in italics] full stop Ed. editor's first name or initials followed by surname full stop place of publication colon publisher comma date of publication full stop pagination full stop medium of publication full stop

For 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.

A long poem

As for short poem except *title* [in italics]

For example:

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

A film

Title (in italics) full stop director's name full stop (writer, performers and producer may be included here) the distributor comma date full stop medium of publication full stop

For 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.

A television episode

"Title of the episode" [in double inverted commas and only if relevant] full stop *title of series* [in italics and if relevant] full stop the local station comma the city full stop the date of broadcast full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

A play

Author's surname comma first name or initials full stop *title* [in italics] full stop [insert editor's name if there is one] place of publication colon publisher comma date of publication full stop

For example:

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

An article in a magazine.

Author's surname comma first name or initials full stop "title" [in double inverted commas] *Title* [in italics] full stop date full stop pagination full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

An article in a newspaper.

Author's surname comma first name or initials full stop "title" [in double inverted commas] *title* [of paper in italics] date colon pagination full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

An unpublished thesis/dissertation

Author's surname comma first name or initials full stop "title" [in double inverted commas] full stop Diss full stop name of conferring institution comma year of completion full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

A recorded song

Performer's name full stop "title of song" [in double inverted commas] full stop *album title* [in italics] recording label comma date full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

A recorded album

Performer's name full stop *title* [in italics] producer [if significant] full stop recording company comma date full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

A recorded file

Composer or performer's name full stop *title* [in italics] full stop name of recording manufacturer comma date of publication full stop medium of publication full stop

For example:

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

An internet site

Author's last name comma first name or initials full stop [if available] *title* [in italics] full stop name of publishing organisation full stop date of publication full stop medium of publication full stop date accessed full stop

For example:

McCreary, Bear. *Bear McCreary – Official Site*. Webovolution. 2013. Web. 19 February 2013.

A page within a website

Author's last name comma first name or initials full stop [if available] "title of web page" [in double inverted commas] full stop *title* [in italics] full stop name of publishing organisation full stop date of publication full stop medium of publication full stop date accessed full stop

For example:

McCreary, Bear. "The Walking Dead: Days Gone Bye". *Bear McCreary – Official Site*. Webovolution. 2013. Web. 19 February 2013.

A lecture

Author's last name comma first name or initials full stop "title" [in double inverted commas] full stop name of course full stop place delivered full stop date delivered/accessed full stop

For example:

Treagus, Mandy. "Great Expectations Lecture Two". Introduction to English: Ideas of the Real. University of Adelaide. 15 Mar 2012.

NB: 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: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>. This site also contains information on how to cite a range of nonstandard texts including images, interviews, emails and tweets.

Creating your "List of Works Cited"

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.'

Example:

Works Cited

Dylan, Bob. *Bringing it all Back Home*. Prod. Tom Wilson. Columbia, 1965. LP.

Gonzalez, Paul. "The Original Counterculture Flick, Easy Rider, Returns." *The Tech* 115.25 (1995): 7. Web. 17 October 2001.

Green, Jonathon. *All Dressed Up: The Sixties and the Counter Culture*. London: Pimlico, 1999. Print.

Klinger, Barbara. "The Road to Dystopia: Landscaping the Nation in *Easy Rider*." *The Road Movie Book*. Ed. Steven Cohen and Ina Rae Hark. London: Routledge, 1997. 179-203. Print.

Marwick, Arthur. *The Sixties*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1998. Print.

McCarthy, Cormac. *No Country for Old Men*. London: Picador, 2005. Film.

Mulvey, Laura. "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema". *Screen* 16.3 (1975): 6-18. Web. 23 October 2001.

No Country for Old Men. Dir. Joel and Ethan Coen. Paramount, 2007. Film.

Ryan, Michael and Douglas Kellner. *Camera Politica: The Politics and Ideology of Contemporary Hollywood Film*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana UP, 1990. Print.