

MLA Citation Style

This citation guide is based on the 6th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2003). Several copies of the *MLA Handbook* (LB2369 G53 2003) are available in the Humanities & Social Sciences Library (McLennan-Redpath library buildings). This citation guide illustrates the most common types of citations that student use. For complete information, please refer to the published handbook. The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is generally used for academic writing in the field of humanities.

Parenthetical documentation is used in the body of the paper. Parenthetical documentation consists of inserting brief references, placed in parentheses, within the text of your paper whenever you refer to someone else's ideas or exact words.

Works Cited are listed alphabetically at the end of the research paper and should contain works that were consulted and which have contributed ideas and information – whether facts, opinions, or quotations – to the writing of your paper.

If you are not sure when you need to include a reference in your paper, consult Chapter 2 of the *MLA Handbook* dealing with plagiarism.

Additional systems of documentation (endnotes / footnotes, author-date system, number system) used in other disciplines are included in Appendix B of the *MLA Handbook*. Verify with your professors and department for the systems or styles they require.

Refer to the *MLA Handbook* for additional examples and detailed explanations concerning the citation style. Whichever system you choose, be consistent. Always use the same citation style throughout your paper.

EXAMPLES OF PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION WITHIN THE BODY OF THE TERM PAPER

Parenthetical documentation is given prominence in the *MLA Handbook*. In parenthetical documentation, the author's last name and a page number are usually sufficient. Leave the name of the author out of the parenthetical documentation if you have included it in the body of the text. When you are making reference to several documents by the same author, the parenthetical documentation should include part of the title of the work. If you are making reference to an entire work by an author in the body of the text or if you are using a document without pagination, include the name of the author in the body of the text instead of using parenthetical documentation. Do not use parenthetical documentation for electronic or web documents if there is no pagination.

Author's Name in Text

Townsend has argued this point (9-10).

Other, like Jakobson and Waugh (210-15), hold the opposite point of view.

Parenthetical examples continued

Author's Name in Reference

This point has already been argued (Townsend 9-10).

Others hold the opposite point of view (e.g., Jakobson and Waugh 210-15).

Results of Hicks-Coolick, Burnside-Eaton and Peters research indicates that: "Health care for homeless children is not available on a regular basis and, when available, is not in a child-friendly environment" (202).

Two references by the Same Author

Some ministers of the Cabinet were critical of the draft (Granatstein, Canada's War. 275).

According to Granatstein, "The events of the war had marked a historic change in Canada's place in the world" ("American Influence" 66).

Corporate Author

According to a study sponsored by the National Research Council, the population of China around 1990 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (15).

Citing Volume and Page Numbers of a Multivolume Work

The anthology by Lauter and his coeditors contains both Stowe's "Sojourner Truth, the Libyan Sibyl" (1: 2530-38) and Gilman's "The Yellow Wall-Paper" (2: 606-19).

EXAMPLES OF WORK CITED

The list of Works Cited or the bibliography section is always located at the end of the paper. This list provides indispensable information in order to identify and retrieve sources used for writing a paper. Remember the following guidelines:

- Start the list of Works Cited on a new page at the end of your text.
- The list is alphabetical by the author's last name, or by the title if there is no author.
- Capitalize every important word of the title.
- Titles are underlined.
- Indentation: Each entry in the list of Works Cited is flush with the left margin but any subsequent lines are indented 5 spaces from the left margin.
- All the entries are double-spaced.

Book (one author)

Granatstein, J. L. Canada's War: The Politics of the Mackenzie King Government 1939-1945. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1990.

Book (two to three authors)

Jackobson, Roman, and Linda R. Waugh. The Sound Shape of Language. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1979.

Book (more than three authors)

Lauter, Paul, et al., eds. The Heath Anthology of American Literature. 4th ed. 2 vols. Boston: Houghton, 2002.

One Volume of a Multivolume Work

Proust, Marcel. Sodom and Gomorrah. Trans. John Sturrock. Ed. Christopher Prendergast. London: Allen Lane, 2002. Vol. 4 of In Search of Lost Time. 6 vols. 1913-27.

Book by a Corporate Author

National Research Council. China and Global Change: Opportunities for Collaboration. Washington: Natl. Acad., 1992.

Work in an Anthology

Letters, Plays, Poems, Short Stories

More, Hannah. "The Black Slave Trade: A Poem." British Women Poets of the Romantic Era. Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472-82.

Reprinted Article

Holladay, Hillary. "Narrative Space in Ann Petry's Country Place." Xavier Review 16 (1996): 21-35. Rpt. in Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism. Ed. Linda Pavlovski and Scott Darga. Vol. 112. Detroit: Gale, 2002: 356-62.

Encyclopedia Article*

Mohanty, Jitendra M. "Indian Philosophy." The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropaedia. 15th ed. 1987.

"Oil." Political Encyclopedia of the Middle East. Ed. Avraham Sela. New York: Continuum, 1999.

Journal Article*

Granatstein, J. L. "The American Influence on the Canadian Military, 1939-1963." Canadian Military History 2.1 (1993): 36-73.

Large, Andrew. et al. "Multimedia and Comprehension: the Relationship Among Text, Animation, and Captions." Journal of the American Society for Information Science 46.5 (1995): 340-347.

Magazine Article*

Fallows, James. "The Early-Decision Racket." Atlantic Monthly Sept. 2001: 37-52.

Weintraub, Arlene, and Laura Cohen. "A Thousand-Year Plan for Nuclear Waste." Business Week 6 May 2002: 94-96.

<p>* For citing electronic versions, see the Work Cited examples under "Item from McGill Library Database" located at the end of the guide.</p>
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Newspaper Article*

Alaton, Salem. "So, Did Thy Live Happily Ever After?" Globe and Mail [Toronto]
27 Dec. 1997: D1+.

Book Review*

Updike, John. "No Brakes." Rev. of Sinclair Lewis: Rebel from Main Street, by Richard
Lingeman. New Yorker 4 Feb. 2002: 77-80.

Television Program

"Robertson Davies, in his own words." Narr. John Neville. Life and Times. CBC
Television. 6 Dec. 1996.

Video Recording (Videocassette or DVD)

Doctor Zhivago. By Boris Pasternak. Dir. David Lean. Perf. Omar Sharif, Julie
Christie, Geraldine Chaplin, Alec Guinness, and Rod Steiger. 1965. Videocassette.
MGM/UA Home Video, 1988.

Entire Internet Site

Postmodern Culture. Ed. Lisa Brawley and James F. English. 2002. 1 Oct. 2002
<<http://www.iath.virginia.edu/pmc>>.

Web Page

Hallengren, Anders. "A Case of Identity: Ernest Hemingway." Nobel e-Museum
28 Aug. 2001. 6 Feb. 2004 <<http://www.nobel.se/literature/articles/hallengren/index.html>>.

<p>* For citing electronic versions, see the Work Cited examples under "Item from McGill Library Database" located at the end of the guide.</p>
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Item from McGill Library Database

Article in HTML

Miles, Adrian. "Singin' in the Rain: A Hypertextual Reading." Postmodern Culture 8.2 (1998). Project Muse. McGill University Libraries. 02 Nov. 2003 <<http://muse.jhu.edu>>.

Article in PDF

Hicks-Coolick, Anne, Patricia Burnside-Eaton, and Ardith Peters. "Homeless Children: Needs and Services." Child and Youth Care Forum 32.4 (2003): 197-210. Kluwer Online. McGill University Libraries. 12 Feb. 2004 <<http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/1053-1890/contents>>.

Tolson, Nancy. "Making Books Available: The Role of Early Libraries, Librarians, and Booksellers in the Promotion of African American Children's Literature." African American Review 32 (1998): 9-16. JSTOR. McGill University Libraries. 12 Oct. 2003 <<http://www.jstor.org/search>>.

E-Book

Spenser, Edmund. The Faerie Queene. London, 1609. Early English Books Online. McGill University Libraries. 13 Jan. 2004 <<http://eebo.chadwyck.com>>.

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02/2004