Learning MLA Style

Parenthetical Citation Notes:

Guidelines for the Works Cited Page:

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
- Label the page Works Cited but do not underline the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks. Also remember to center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
- Double space all citations, however, do not skip spaces between entries.
- List page numbers of sources efficiently, for example list the page numbers on your Works Cited page as 120-50.
- If you're citing an online database do not forget to provide a web address which provides access to the article.

Capitalization and Punctuation:

- Capitalize each word in the titles of articles and books but do not capitalize short prepositions or conjunctions unless one is the first word of the title or subtitle: Gone with the Wind, War and Peace, The Scarlet Letter.
- Use italics or underlining for titles of larger works (books, magazines) and quotation marks for titles of shorter works (poems, articles, chapters).

Listing Author Names:

Entries are listed by author name (or, for entire edited collections, editor names). Author names are written last name first; middle names or middle initials follow the first name:

Pitt, Brad.
Matthews, Dave J.
Reynolds, Ryan William.

Do not list titles (Dr., Sir, Saint, etc.) or degrees (PhD, MD, etc.) with names. However, you do need to include suffixes like "Jr." or "II." Putting it all together, a work by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be cited as "King, Martin Luther, Jr.," with the suffix following the first or middle name and a comma.
More than One Work by an Author:

If you have cited more than one work by a particular author, order the entries alphabetically by title, and use three hyphens in place of the author's name for every entry after the first:

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*.

---. *Villette*.

When an author or collection editor appears both as the sole author of a text and as the first author of a group, list solo-author entries first:

Smith, John, ed. *The Founding of America*.

Smith, John and Michelle Huber. *The Journey to the New World*.

Work with No Known Author:

Alphabetize works with no known author by their title; use a shortened version of the title in the parenthetical citations in your paper. In this case, *Boring Postcards USA* has no known author:

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*.

*Boring Postcards USA*.


Citing Books:

Last name, First name. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

For Example:

Book with More Than One Author:


Citing a Poem or Short Story Examples:

An Introduction, a Preface, a Foreword, or an Afterword:

When citing an introduction, a preface, a forward, or an afterword, write the name of the authors and then give the name of the part being cited, which should not be italicized, underlined or enclosed in quotation marks.


If the writer of the piece is different from the author of the complete work, then write the full name of the complete work's author after the word "By." For example:


Citing the Bible:

Give the name of the specific edition, any editor(s) associated with it, followed by the publication information:


Your parenthetical citation will include the name of the specific edition of the Bible, followed by an abbreviation of the book and chapter : verse(s), e.g., (The New Jerusalem Bible Gen. 1:2-6).

Article in a Magazine:

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


Article in a Newspaper:

Cite a newspaper article as you would a magazine article, but note the different pagination in a newspaper.

Basic Style for Citations of Electronic Sources:

Here are some common features you should try and find before citing electronic sources in MLA style. Always include as much information as possible:

- Author and/or editor names
- Name of the database, or title of project, book, article
- Any version numbers available
- Date of version, revision, or posting
- Publisher information
- Date you accessed the material
- Electronic address, printed between carets ([<, >]).

Basic format:

Name of Site. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sometimes found in copyright statements). Date you accessed the site [electronic address].


<http://www.ela.purdue.edu/english/theory>.

Citing Movies:

Include format names; "Videocassette" for VHS or Betamax, DVD for Digital Video Disc. Also list original release year after director, performers, etc.


Time to Show What You Know:


“The Strange Last Sentence in Joyce’s “The Dead”” from *PMLA*, written by Jack Foran, retrieved from JSTOR on March 21, 2007, with the weblink (www.jstor.edu/Joyce/acad/1234)
“The Economy of South Africa” from *The New York Times*, section A on page 17, written by Joan Hart and George Peters on December 2, 2004


The introduction to Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* written by Harold Bloom, published in 1950 by Penguin Classics Inc. in New York, pages i-xvi

Source: (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/)