Technical College of the Lowcountry

Learning Resources Center

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**MLA Citation Guide**

Citing sources properly when researching and writing a paper or preparing a presentation is an integral element in the research process. The MLA style is most often used in the fields related to the humanities and history. The following examples provide a starting point to citing resources using the MLA Style. For more detailed information, use the MLA Handbook listed at the bottom of the next page.

Books:

**Basic Form -** Author name. *Title of the Book.* Publisher location: Publisher name, Publication date. Publication medium (Print.)

**Examples -** Berger, Leslie. ***The Grand Jury.*** Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2000. Print.

Kohl, Jeanne and Jane Reisman. ***Explorations in Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Applications*.** Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company, 1994. Print.

**An essay, short story, poem or chapter in a collection:**

**Basic form:** Author name. “Title of Essay.”*Title of Collection*.  Ed. Editor’s Name(s). Publication location:  Publisher, Year.  Page range of entry.  Medium of Publication.

**Example:**

Johnson, Samuel. “The Boarding House.”  *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present.*  Ed. Philip Lopate.  New York:  Anchor, 1994. 137-140. Print.

**Chapter from eBook, formerly published in print:**

**Basic form:** Author name.  “Title of Essay.”*Title of Collection*.  Ed. Editor’s Name(s). Print publication location: Print Publisher, Year.  Page range of entry.  Database/Web site name. Medium of Publication (Web). Date accessed.

**Example:**

Werner, Craig. “August Wilson’s Burden: The Function of Neoclassical Jazz.” *May All Your Fences Have Gates: Essays on the Drama of August Wilson*. Ed. Alan Nadel. Iowa City: U of Iowa, 1994. 21-50. *NetLibrary*. Web. 28 Jan. 2010.

## Magazine and Newspaper Articles:

**Basic Form -** Author name. “Title of the Article.” *Publication Title* Date: Pages. Publication medium (Print.)

**Examples –** Begley, Sharon. “Climate-Change Calculus: Why It’s Even Worse Than We Feared.” *Newsweek 3* Aug. 2009: 30. Print.

 Blackledge, Brett J. “Probe: Sanford Broke Laws on Travel.” *The Beaufort Gazette* 11 Aug 2009: A1. Print.

## Scholarly Articles:

**Basic Form -** Author name. “Title of the Article.” *Journal Title* Volume.Issue (Year): Pages. Publication medium. (Print.)

**Examples –** Gibbons, Susanne W. “Theory Synthesis for Self-neglect: A Health and Social Phenomenon.” *Nursing Research* 58.3

(2009): 194-200. Print.

 Barron, Stephen W. “Differential Coercion, Street Youth, and Violent Crime.” *Criminology 47.1* (2009): 239-267. Print.

## Articles Retrieved from Online Databases:

**Basic Form -** Author name. “Title of the Article.” *Title of Journal or Magazine* Publication information. *Database name*. Publication

Medium (Web.) Access date. (If page numbers are not continuous, give the first page number followed by a plus

sign; if pagination is not known, use “n. pag.”)

**Examples -**

**Scholarly -** Lawson, Steven R*.* “Computer Simulation as a Tool for Planning and Management of Visitor Use in Protected Natural Areas.”

  *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 14.6 (2006): 600-617. *Academic Search Premier.* Web. 11 Aug. 2009.

 Escaleras, Monica P. and Charles A. Register. “Mitigating Natural Disasters Through Collective Action: The Effectiveness of

 Tsunami Early Warnings.” *Southern Economic Journal 74.4* (2008): 1017-1034. *Academic OneFile*. Web. 11 Aug. 2009.

**Magazine -** Walsh, Bryan. “Why Are Scotland's Sheep Shrinking?” *Time* 20 July 2009: 52-53. *Points of View Reference Center.* Web.

 11 Aug. 2009.

**Newspaper –** Heavens, Alan J. “Can Going Green Mean Going Too Far?” *Philadelphia Inquirer* 21 Sept. 2007, n. pag. *Custom Newspapers.*

Web. 11 Aug. 2009.

## Videocassettes & DVDs:

**Basic Form -** *Title*. Director. If pertinent, include screenwriters, performers, producer, and original release date. Distributor, Release

 date. Publication medium (Videocassette or DVD.)

**Examples –** *Sister Act.* Dir. Emile Ardolino. Perf. Whoopi Goldberg, Maggie Smith. Touchstone Home Video, 1992. Videocassette.

 ***The Latin American Boom.*** Dir. Pablo Garcia. Films for the Humanities & Sciences. 2007. Videocassette.

**Web Pages:**

**Basic Form -** Author (or one of the following: Editor, Compiler, Translator). “Title of Work.” *Title of Overall Website.* Publisher or

sponsor (if none found, use “N.p.”), Date of publication (or “n.d.” for no date). Publication medium (Web.) Date of

access. (Note: use a generic label such as Home page, Introduction, or Online posting for untitled pages. Do not put

these in quotations or italics.)

**Example -** Census History Staff. “History: Through the Decades.” *United States Census Bureau.* United States Census Bureau, 2009. Web.

12 Aug. 2009.

**Originally avail. in print -** Original publication info. *Title of Database or Web Site.* Publication medium (Web.) Access date.

**Example -** Isabel Ecclestone Mackay. *Fires of Driftwood.* Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, Ltd. 1922. *Project Gutenberg*. Web. 11 Aug. 2009.

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**Avail. in medium other than print -** Original publication info. *Title of Database or Web Site.* Publication medium (Web.) Access date.

**Example -** Steinbauer, Nathan. *“Smuggs: Smugglers' Notch Archaeology Dig****.”*** Smugglers**'** NotchResort**.** 20 July 2009. *YouTube.com.* Web. 25 June 2009.

**Parenthetical References:**

Parenthetical references or references within the text of a research paper must point to a specific source in that paper’s list of works

cited. These references must be as specific as possible and generally consist of the author or authors’ names and the relevant page

numbers of the information discussed. If the author’s name is clearly identified in your text, put the number reference in

parentheses. Otherwise, the references are placed within parentheses with a space between the author’s name and the page numbers.

Below are a few common examples. For more specific information, see the sources listed at the bottom of the page.

One work by a single author in the list of works cited:

 (McAllister 33-41)

More than one author with same last name – add first initial:

 (R. Han 5-24) or (A. Han 189-204)

If two or more authors have the same first initial as well as the same last name – use full first names:

 (Joan Weston 218-220)

When there is more than one author of a work:

 (Broadhead and Phillips 15-19) or (Broadhead, Phillips, and Li 15-19)

If there are more than three authors, follow the form used in the list of works cited. Write out all the authors’ names or abbreviate with “**et al.**”

 (Broadhead, Phillips, Li and Hoverman 15-19) or (Broadhead et al. 15-19)

When citing from a multivolume work, include the volume number followed by a colon before the page numbers:

 (Harper 6: 28-33)

When the work is listed by title in the List of Works Cited, use the full title or the first part of the title in place of an author:

 (***Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*** 625) or (*Hirohito* 625)

**Web Pages and Videotapes -**

When citing an electronic source that does not have page numbers or any other type of reference markers, it is usually easier to refer

to it directly within the text. If you listed the source by author in your list of works cited, refer to it by author. If you listed it by title,

refer to it by title.

Patrick Poitevin and Joanne Poitevin’s *Solar Eclipse Calendar* gives details on past, current-year and future eclipses, by date.

or

*Solar Eclipse Calendar,* by Patrick Poitevin and Joanne Poitevin, gives details on past, current-year and future eclipses, by date.

This handout has been derived from: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.* 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

For additional examples and information, ask for this book at the library information desk.

Adapted from *MLA Citation Guide*, William M. Brish Library, Hagerstown Community College, http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/library