

## MLA 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Documentation

This handout is based on the Modern Language Association's new ninth edition handbook and focuses specifically on creating in-text citations and citing sources. The writer's goal should be to provide a document and list of sources that are easy for readers to use, so that the reading experience is informative and enjoyable. It is important, however, to remember that the writer's goal and responsibility is to combine error-free writing with trustworthy documentation. For additional information on research documentation style, as well as related links, please visit the Writing Center's homepage at <http://www.molloy.edu/about-molloy-college/offices-and-services/writing-center>

### In Text Citing Examples

Documentation is required for any work that the writer quotes or paraphrases from. But documentation is not required for every type of borrowed material. For example, common knowledge, which is information widely available in reference works, needs no documentation.

When paraphrasing an author's idea or quoting an author's exact words, cite the author's last name and the page number.

In-text citations are usually placed in parentheses and consist of the author's last name (or the first element in the works cited entry if no author is provided) followed by a space and a page number.

Example: "It's tough being a stickler for punctuation these days. One almost dare not get up in the mornings" (Truss 3).

The author's name may also appear in the text itself when introducing the quoted or paraphrased material. In this case, only the page number would appear in parentheses.

Example: In her book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, Lynn Truss laments the plight of those who are orthodox punctuators: "It's tough being a stickler for punctuation these days. One almost dare not get up in the mornings" (3).

When the works cited entry begins with the title of the source, the title is included in the in-text citation. As with using the author, the title may appear in the text itself when introducing the source material or in abbreviated form with a page number in parentheses.

Example: In *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, King Arthur is described most humbly as "one who would not eat until all were served" (77).

Example: King Arthur selflessly and humbly "would not eat until all were served" (*Sir Gawain* 77).

Electronic sources often do not include page numbers, so only the author's name would be included in the citation. Some sources provide explicit paragraph numbers. In such cases, give the relevant number or numbers, preceded by the label par. or pars. Other sources may provide labels instead of pages, such as sections (sec., secs.) or chapters (ch., chs.). If the author's name begins such a citation, place a comma after the name.

Example: There is little evidence here for the claim that "Eagleton has belittled the gains of postmodernism" (Chan, par. 41).

## Works Cited Examples

Works cited are alphabetized according to the first author's last name, or by title if the source has no author. Do not alphabetize author names within an entry. The works cited list is double-spaced within and between entries. For entries longer than one line, use the hanging indent format: the first line is flush along the left margin, and subsequent lines for an entry are indented one-half inch.

### PRINT PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

##### One author

O'Conner, Patricia T. *Woe Is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Riverhead Books, 2019.

##### Two authors

Stevens, Mark, and Anlyn Swann. *de Kooning: An American Master*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.

##### Three or more authors

Burdick, Anne, et al. *Digital Humanities*. MIT P, 2012.

##### More than one book by the same author

##### First book by the author:

Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2011.

##### Second book by the same author:

Omit the author's name. Instead, at the margin use three hyphens followed by a period.  
---. *The Pressures to Text in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2011.

##### Edited book

Holland, Merlin, and Rupert hart-Dais, editors. *The Complete Letters of Oscar Wilde*. Henry Holt, 2000.

##### Book by anonymous (unknown) author

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Translated by Brian Stone, Penguin Group, 1974.

##### Translated book emphasizing the translator rather than the author

Pevear, Richard, and Larissa Volokhonsky, translators. *Crime and Punishment*. By Fyodor Dostoevsky, Vintage Books, 1993.

##### Work in an anthology

Cisnero, Sandra. "Only Daughter." *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Samuel Cohen, Bedford/St. Martins, 2020, pp. 91-94.

## Reference book

"Patanjali." *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia*, edited by Bruce Murphy, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Harper Collins Publishers, 1996, p. 782.

## Individually titled volume in a multi-volume set

Caro, Robert A. *The Passage of Power*. Vintage Books, 2012. Vol. 4 of *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*.

## All volumes of the multivolume set

Rampersad, Arnold. *The Life of Langston Hughes*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford UP, 2002, 2 vols.

## ELECTRONIC PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

### Database journal article

Bockelman, Brian. "Transatlantic Bohemian Renaissance." *Modernism/Modernity*, vol. 23, no.1, Jan. 2016, pp. 37-63. *Project Muse*, <https://doi.org/10.1353/mod.2016.0011>.

### Online journal article

Abrams, Hannah. "The Future of Technology." *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, vol. 10, no. 4, 2016, [www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/10/4/000268/000268.html](http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/10/4/000268/000268.html)

### PDF journal article

Fisher, Margaret. "The Music of Ezra Pound." *Yale University Library Gazette*, vol. 80, nos. 3-4, Apr. 2016, pp. 139-60. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/40859548](http://www.jstor.org/stable/40859548). PDF download.

## ELECTRONIC NON-PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

### E-book

O'Connor, Patricia. *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. E-book ed., Riverhead Books, 2009

### Book published exclusively on a website

Miller, Daniel, et al. *How the World Changed Social Media*. UCL Press, 2016, <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt1g69z35>.

### Unsigned dictionary entry

"Kerfuffle." *Merriam-Webster*, 2015, [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/kerfuffle](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/kerfuffle).

### Wikipedia

"Body Image." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 16 June 2016, 7:41, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Body\\_image](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Body_image). Accessed 28 June 2016.

### Review of a work (book)

Mackin, Joseph. Review of *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*, by Alan Jacobs. *New York Journal of Books*, 2 June 2011. [www.nyjournalofbookskcom/book-review/pleasures-reading-age-distraton](http://www.nyjournalofbookskcom/book-review/pleasures-reading-age-distraton).

### **Webpage on a website with author and date**

Oates, Joyce Carol. "The Myth of the Isolated Artist." *Celestial Timepiece—The Joyce Carol Oates Home Page*. University of San Francisco, 26 Jan. 2015, [celestialtimepiece.com/2015/01/26/the-myth-of-the-isolated-artist/](http://celestialtimepiece.com/2015/01/26/the-myth-of-the-isolated-artist/)

### **Webpage on a website with no author or date**

"The Secret Garden." *Hark! A Vagrant*, [www.harkavagrant.com/index.php?id=350](http://www.harkavagrant.com/index.php?id=350). Accessed 17 Jan. 2017. (Access date is added if the writer suspects the work has been altered or removed.)

### **Blog post**

Hollmichel, Stefanie. "The Reading Brain: Difference between Digital and Print." *So Many Books*, 20 April 2013, [somanymorebooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/](http://somanymorebooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/).

### **Tweet**

Chaucer Doth Tweet [@LeVostreGC]. "A daye without anachronism ys lyke Emily Dickinson without her lightsaber." *Twitter*, 7 Apr. 2018, [twitter.com/LeVostreGC/status/982829987286827009](https://twitter.com/LeVostreGC/status/982829987286827009).

### **Facebook post**

World Wildlife Fund. "Five Things to Know on Shark Awareness Day." *Facebook*, 14 July 2020, [www.facebook.com/worldwildlifefund/videos/745925785979440/](https://www.facebook.com/worldwildlifefund/videos/745925785979440/).

### **YouTube video**

McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E).

## **LEGAL WORKS**

### **United States Supreme Court [Not found in the *United States Reports*]**

United States, Supreme Court. *Brown v. Board of Education*. 17 May 1954  
*Legal Information Institute*, Cornell Law School, [www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/347/483](http://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/347/483).

### **Federal Bills**

United States, Congress, House. Improving Broadband Access for Veterans Act of 2016.  
*Congress.gov*, [www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/639/text](http://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/639/text).  
114<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, House Resolution 6394, passed 6, Dec. 2016.

### **State Senate Bills**

New York State, Legislature. Senate Bill 15. *New York State Legislature*, 20 Jan. 2017, [docs.legis.newyork.gov/2017/related/proposals/sb5](http://docs.legis.newyork.gov/2017/related/proposals/sb5).