

MLA Style

This resource is not exhaustive and does not replace the referencing instructions given in class. In case of any doubt, consult the professor before citing your sources as it is indicated here.

MLA Style uses two types of references to specify the provenance of borrowed material and give proper credit to previous research. First, it provides brief parenthetical citations for each quotation, paraphrase, and summary in the text itself; second, it provides complete documentation for each source in the list of works cited.

Common abbreviations include: ch. (chapter), ed. (edition), et al. (and others), no. (number), p. (page), par. (paragraph), pp. (pages), qtd. in (quoted in), sec. (section), trans. (translation), UP (University Press), vol. (volume).

In-text citations

In-text citations include the author's surname or corporate name and the page number (54-58).

"Fifty years later it's so easy, with hindsight, to understand what was happening but you were part of it then. History was no theme park. It was what you lived. You were affected, whether you liked it or not" (Grant 3).

If the author's surname is provided in the text, there is no need to repeat it in the citation (54).

However, as Osberg explains, "if a longer period of paid employment is to represent an improvement in individual well-being, it must be due to choice, not necessity" (413).

If consecutive citations refer to the same source, the second citation can include the page number only (124-126).

According to some, the relationship between art and society is reciprocal (Mueller 374). In this view, art "is not the product of genius alone; it is a cooperative enterprise between author, audience, geography, philosophy of life and the innumerable winds of fashion" (375).

If multiple sources are cited in the same in-text citation, they are separated by a semicolon (58, 126).

At a local scale, the notion of place is not only a space that we occupy; it is also a part of who we are. This relationship between location and identity can easily be observed through behaviours displayed both during national holiday celebrations and during all-out war (Crang 8; Gruffudd 556-557).

If there is **no author**, the citation indicates the title instead; if there are **no page numbers**, the citation indicates another location if it is explicitly provided (55-56).

Bibliographic entries

Bibliographic entries include all the elements needed to locate a source, such as the source's author, title, publication information, and year of publication. They are arranged alphabetically according to the authors' surnames in a list called *Works Cited* (20-53).

If there is **no author**, the bibliographic entry is arranged alphabetically according to the title (24).

To know more, see the *MLA Handbook*, currently in its 8th edition (2016).

Article in a scientific journal

Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, volume, number, year, pages. *Title of Database*, DOI.

Diala, Isidore. "André Brink and Malraux." *Contemporary Literature*, vol. 47, no. 1, 2006, pp. 91-113. *Project Muse*, doi:10.1353/cli.2006.0014.

Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, volume, number, year, pages. *Title of Database*, URL.

Mueller, John H. "Is Art the Product of Its Age?" *Social Forces*, vol. 13, no. 3, 1935, pp. 367-375. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/2570399.

Book (or part of a book)

Author. *Title of Book*. Publisher, year.

Martin, George R. R. *A Game of Thrones*. Bantam Books, 1996.

Author. *Title of Book*. Original year. Edited by Editor's Full Name, Publisher, year.

Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*. 1838. Edited by Garth Nix, Puffin Classics, 2008.

Author. "Title of Poem or Short Story." *Title of Book*, edited by Editor's Full Name, Publisher, year, pages.

Tan, Amy. "Rules of the Game." *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories*, edited by Tobias Wolff, Random House, 1994, pp. 497-508.

Author. "Title of Preface if Provided." Preface. *Title of Book*, edited by Editor's Last Name, Publisher, year, pages.

Wolff, Tobias. Introduction. *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories*, edited by Wolff, Random House, 1994, pp. xi-xvi.

Report

Author. *Title of Report*. Publisher, year. Description.

Valiquet, Dominique, and Katherine Simonds. *Legislative Summary of Bill C-51: Investigative Powers for the 21st Century Act*. Library of Parliament, 2011. Publication no. 40-3-C51-E.

Web content

Author. "Title of Article or Page." *Title of Website*, Posting or publishing date, URL.

Hamblin, James. "How to Talk to Strangers." *The Atlantic*, 25 Aug. 2016, www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/08/civil-inattention/497183/.

Author. Comment on "Title of Article or Page." *Title of Website*, Posting or publishing date, Posting time if provided, URL.

Coles, Eric. Comment on "How to Talk to Strangers." *The Atlantic*, 26 Aug. 2016, www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/08/civil-inattention/497183/#article-comments.

"Title of Video." *Title of Website*, uploaded by User, Posting or publishing date, URL.

"What is Literature for?" *YouTube*, uploaded by The School of Life, 18 Sept. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RCFLobfqcw.

To know more, see the *MLA Handbook*, currently in its 8th edition (2016).

One work by multiple authors

If a source has **two authors**, the in-text citation includes both surnames, separated by "and" (116).

Critical thinking is the ability to react, or to ask oneself a series of questions in order to gain a better understanding of a piece of information (Browne and Keeley 2-3).

If a source has two authors, the bibliographic entry includes both names in the same order as on the title page. The first name is inverted, and each name is separated by a comma (21-23).

Browne, M. Neil, and Stuart M. Keeley. *Asking the Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking*. 10th ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, 2011.

If a source has **three or more authors**, the in-text citation includes the first author's surname, followed by the abbreviation for *and others* (116).

Critical thinking is an essential skill to develop as a student because doing research is "like zigzagging up and down a rocky hill through overgrown woods, sometimes in a fog, searching for something you won't recognize until you see it" (Booth et al. 32).

If a source has three or more authors, the bibliographic entry includes the first author's name, followed by the abbreviation for *and others* (22-23).

Booth, Wayne C., et al. *The Craft of Research*. 3rd ed., Nelson Education, 2008.

Multiple works by the same author

If multiple sources are written by the same author, the in-text citation includes the author's surname and the title of the work (perhaps shortened), separated by a comma and followed by the page numbers (55, 126).

Several studies have shown how powerful the writing paradigm can be during treatment (Pennebaker, "Putting Stress Into Words" 539). Indeed, these studies have revealed that, in order for there to be both physical and psychological benefits, "the mere expression of a trauma is not sufficient. Health gains appear to require translating experiences into language" (Pennebaker, "Writing About Emotional Experiences" 164).

In the list of works cited, two or more works written by the same author are arranged alphabetically according to the first significant word of the title. The first bibliographic entry includes the author's name, and subsequent entries replace it by three hyphens (113-114).

Pennebaker, James W. "Putting Stress Into Words: Health, Linguistic, and Therapeutic Implications." *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, vol. 31, no. 6, 1993, pp. 539-548. *Scholars Portal*, doi:10.1016/0005-7967(93)90105-4.

---. "Writing About Emotional Experiences as a Therapeutic Process." *Psychological Science*, vol. 8, no. 3, 1997, pp. 162-166. *Scholars Portal*, doi:10.1111/j.1467-9280.1997.tb00403.x.

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Block quotations

If a quotation has more than four lines (or more than three in the case of poetry), it forms a block of text indented half an inch (or 1.27 cm) from the left margin. Contrary to other quotations, it is not within quotation marks (75-79).

There are three determinants to "asking others": motivation, capacity, and compatibility.

The first proposition builds on the straightforward idea that asking others to participate is sticking your neck out. By asking others, one publicly displays endorsement of a cause and comes out as a supporter of a movement. Not all targets of a recruiter may react positively: some may disagree with the cause, some may change their opinion about the recruiter accordingly, or some may even react in a hostile way. So, asking others comes with a cost, and not all potential participants are prepared to bear that cost. It depends on the *motivation* of the potential recruiter. (Walgrave and Wouters 1677)

Foreign-language quotations

If a quotation is translated for the benefit of the reader, your translation follows the foreign-language quotation in the text. Contrary to other quotations, your translation is either within "double" quotation marks and placed in parentheses, or within 'single' quotation marks and placed after the original quotation (90-91).

Both methods are fine, but one of them must be used consistently in the same paper.

1. Hintermeyer believes that "the palliative approach is first and foremost a relational one" ("la démarche palliative est avant tout d'ordre relationnel"; my trans.; 882).
2. Hintermeyer believes that "the palliative approach is first and foremost a relational one" 'la démarche palliative est avant tout d'ordre relationnel' (my trans.; 882).

In the list of works cited, your translation follows the original title in brackets (106-107).

Hintermeyer, Pascal. "Soins palliatifs" ["Palliative Care"]. *Dictionnaire du corps* [Dictionary of the Body], edited by Michela Marzano, Presses universitaires de France, 2007, pp. 880-884.

Modified quotations

If alterations or clarifications are made to a quotation, they are added either in brackets within the quotation or in parentheses after the quotation (86, 126).

"It [yoga] is neither a religion, nor a creed; it is a need of *life*, as the breath we breathe" (Krishnananda 80; emphasis added).

If words or sentences are omitted from a quotation, they are replaced by an ellipsis (80-85).

"Yoga is a . . . need that will be felt by every individual. . . . Yoga is the science of existence" (Krishnananda 80).

To know more, see the *MLA Handbook*, currently in its 8th edition (2016).

Second-hand quotations

If one work is cited in another, it is best to locate the original source. However, if it cannot be found, the original work is provided in the text, and the indirect source is cited in parentheses after the abbreviation for *quoted in* (124).

In an interesting variation to the conception of literature as a reflection of the significant beliefs, values and norms of a society, Wolfenstein and Leites argue that "the common day-dreams of a culture are in part the sources, in part the products of its popular myths, stories, plays and films" (qtd. in Albrecht 426).

In the list of works cited, only the indirect source is included (20).

Albrecht, Milton C. "The Relationship of Literature and Society." *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 59, no. 5, 1954, pp. 425-436. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2772244>.

Source material taken from class notes

Generally speaking, you should avoid citing class notes. However, if you decide to quote, paraphrase or summarize class notes in a paper, you must reference them accordingly (52, 70).

Class notes taken during a lecture can be treated like a lecture.

Professor. "Title of Lecture." Title of Course. Class date, University of Ottawa, Ottawa. Lecture.

Printed handouts provided by the professor can be treated like an unexpected type of work.

Professor. "Title of Handout." Title of Course. Class date, University of Ottawa, Ottawa. Handout.

Class notes available online can be treated like website content. They are mentioned in the text, but there is no need to provide in-text citations.

Professor. "Title of Document." *Title of Website*, Posting or publishing date, URL. Class notes.

Source material taken from course packs

Previously published articles found in a course pack are cited like works in an anthology compiled by the professor, followed by the precision *originally published in* and the reference for the original work. Unpublished articles found in a course pack are cited like works in an anthology compiled by the professor (53).

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