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MLA Documentation

This is a brief guide to the *Modern Language Association (MLA)* rules for documentation. It covers only some of the commonly cited materials. For additional information and more in-depth guidelines on *MLA* documentation and research paper writing please consult:

Gibaldi, Joseph. [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#). 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. **REF LB2369.G53 2009**

OR Ask at the The Desk.

You can also visit MLA online at <http://www.mla.org/style>

When to Cite

Whenever you use another's work in your writing you must provide documentation. *MLA* documentation uses parenthetical citations within the text linked to an alphabetical list of full citations at the end of the paper. Not citing the words or ideas of another is plagiarism; which is a direct violation of the Academic Honor Code with severe implications and penalties.

In-text Citations

Each citation within the text must contain a full citation at the end of the paper. In-text citations usually contain only the author's last name and the page reference.

If you use the author's name in the sentence, then the page number need to be in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

Frost once said that nothing gold can stay (272).

If you are referencing the author, but do not use their name in the sentence:

The poem contrasts the colors of green and gold (Frost 272).

Bibliographic Citations

Books

Last name, First name. *Title of Book*. Editor, translator or compiler. Edition used. Volume Number. Series name. Place of publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Page Numbers. Medium of publication.

Single author example:

Frost, Robert. *Complete Poems of Robert Frost*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1949. Print.

Periodicals

Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Volume Number.
Issue Number (Year of publication): page numbers. Medium of
publication.

Example:

Albada, Kelly F. "The Public and Private Dialogue about the American Family on
Television." *Journal of Communication* 50.4 (2000): 79-110. Print.

Electronic Publications

Article from an Online Database

Last name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Volume Number.
Issue Number (Year of Publication): page numbers. *Database Name*.
Medium of publication. Date of Access.

Example of an article retrieved from an online database:

Lubar, Steven. "Information Culture and the Archival Record." *The American
Archivist* 62.1 (1999): 10-22. *JSTOR*. Web. 25 May 2011.

Online Resources for more information about MLA style

FSU Library's MLA Citation Guide:

<http://guides.lib.fsu.edu/content.php?pid=82097&sid=609265>

Long Island University links to citation styles:

<http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.htm>

The OWL (Online Writing Lab) at Purdue MLA formatting and style guide:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

