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.)


Online Books:

**Basic Form** - Author name. *Title of the Book*. Publisher location: Publisher name, Publication date. *Title of database or website*. Publication medium (Web.) Access date.


Magazine and Newspaper Articles:

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


Scholarly Articles:

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


Videocassettes & DVDs:

**Basic Form** - *Title.* Director. If pertinent, include screenwriters, performers, producer, and original release date. Distributor, Release date. Publication medium (Videocassette or DVD.)


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.)


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


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


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:
  (Johnson 15-21)

- More than one author with same last name – add first initial:
  (J. Henderson 125-131) or (M. Henderson 253-254)

- When there is more than one author of a work:
  (Smith and Jones 58-62) or (Smith, Jones, and Hanover 58-62)

- 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.”
  (Smith, Jones, Hanover and Riley 58-62) or (Smith et al. 58-62)

- 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:
  *(Capitol Punishment in America since World War II 212)* or *(Capitol Punishment 212)*

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.

- David Manura’s *Dave’s Math Tables* provides a wonderful resource for algebra students.

  or

- *Dave’s Math Tables*, by David Manura, provides a wonderful resource for algebra students.

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.