

MLA CITATION

This handout is available in an alternate format on request.

What is it? Developed by the Modern Language Association, the MLA style is most common in the humanities. MLA citations consist of in-text references and the list of works cited.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

The in-text component of MLA citation comprises two main elements: the author's last name and the page number. A complete citation will look like this: (Auerbach 48).

- If the author's name is mentioned in the text, or clear from the context, it need not be cited:

In *Woman and the Demon*, Nina Auerbach helps explain this infusion of power and meaning into women's hair by pointing out "the totemistic aura parts of a woman's body acquire in disjunction from the woman herself" (48).

Source: (Gitter 941). See the back of this sheet for the full citation.

- If your reference list includes more than one work by the same author, distinguish between the different works: put the title, or a short version of it, in the citation, as in the following reference to one of several novels by Thomas Hardy that are discussed in the essay:

Eustacia Vye's thick, dark hair is described as animate; her nerves literally extend into her tresses (*Return of the Native* 53; bk. 1, ch. 7).

Source: (Gitter 941). See the back of this sheet for the full citation.

- Citations for classic novels often include divisions by volume or chapter after the page number (see the previous example). When citing plays in verse or poems, refer to line numbers along with divisions of the work (act, book, canto, etc.), as shown below.

In the fiction of the *Odyssey* it is a gentleman of Scheria, home of the Phaiakians, who sneeringly tells Odysseus that he resembles a merchant "grasping for profits" (8.158-64), only to eat his words (8.400-15) after the hero demonstrates his athletic prowess.

Source: (Quint 26). See the back of this sheet for the full citation.

- For any type of source without an identified author, cite the title or a short version of it. This rule applies to any anonymous work (like the article shown below), including definitions from dictionaries and most entries in reference works such as encyclopedias.

Thus, readers discovered in 1927 that Jean Rhys had published *The Left Bank* and in 1928 that the Modern Library had issued a reprint of Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* ("Books").

Source: (Leick 129). See the back of this sheet for the full citation.

- To refer to a source that is quoted or cited in one of your readings, list only the text that you have actually read in your Works Cited, and use "qtd. in" to refer to it in your in-text citation. In the example below, you would cite Fitch, not the works Fitch quoted, in the Works Cited.

A page of quotations in 1927 included the *New York Times's* characterization of *transition* as "hopelessly muddled and unintelligible," the *Saturday Review of Literature's* complaint that the publication consisted of "onslaught and ravage upon the English language," and the observation by the *Detroit News* that "Gertrude Stein, living in France, has apparently forgotten English—at least the kind of English this reviewer speaks" (qtd. in Fitch 195, 201, 152).

Source: (Leick 134). See the back of this sheet for the full citation.

WORKS CITED LIST

The list of references at the end of a paper appears under the title "Works Cited," which is centered at the top of a new page. For complete guidelines, consult *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th edition).

This edition of the *MLA Handbook* indicates that items in the reference list should include the medium of publication, such as "Print" or "Web." To cite multiple works by the same author, note the example of Hardy below. See *Purdue Online Writing Lab* (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>) for detailed information on MLA citations and paper format.

CITING PRINT PUBLICATIONS

Book:

Auerbach, Nina. *Woman and the Demon*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1982. Print.

Hardy, Thomas. *Jude the Obscure*. 1895. New York: Penguin, 1978. Print.

---. *The Return of the Native*. 1878. Ed. James Gordin. New York: Norton, 1969. Print.

An Essay, Story, Poem, Play, or Other Text in an Anthology:

Murray, Stuart. "Hollywood and the Fascination of Autism." *Autism and Representation*. Ed. Mark Osteen. New York: Routledge, 2008. 244-55. Print.

A Source with No Identified Author:

"Books Received." *Life* 13 Oct. 1927: 30. Print.

CITING WEB PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article in an Online Database:

Gitter, Elisabeth G. "The Power of Women's Hair in the Victorian Imagination." *PMLA* 99.5 (1984): 936-54. *JSTOR*. Web. 12 Jan. 2012.

Leick, Karen. "Popular Modernism: Little Magazines and the American Daily Press." *PMLA* 123.1 (2008): 125-39. *MLA International Bibliography*. Web. 9 Sept. 2011.

Quint, David. "The Genealogy of the Novel from the *Odyssey* to *Don Quijote*." *Comparative Literature* 59.1 (2007): 23-32. *JSTOR*. Web. 9 Sept. 2011.

Article Published in an Online Scholarly Journal:

Jirón-King, Shimmerlee. "Thompson's and Acosta's Collaborative Creation of the Gonzo Narrative Style." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 10.1 (2008): n. pag. Web. 3 Aug. 2011.

Article from a Newspaper or Magazine:

Lederman, Marsha. "Orwell's Dystopia Comes Alive in a Haunting Production." *The Globe and Mail* 28 Mar. 2011: R3. *ProQuest*. Web. 12 Jan. 2012.

Dictionary Definition:

"Panopticon." *Oxford English Dictionary Online*. Oxford UP, Dec. 2011. Web. 12 Jan. 2012.

A Work on the Web That Has Appeared in Print:

Peacock, Molly. "A Favor of Love." *Cornucopia: New and Selected Poems, 1975-2002*. New York: Norton, 2002. 19-20. *Representative Poetry Online*. U of Toronto Libraries. Web. 12 Jan. 2012.

Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*. London: Hogarth, 1929. *eBooks@Adelaide*. U of Adelaide Library. Web. 12 Jan. 2012.

Remember that correctness in details of citations will demonstrate your effort and reliability as a scholar!