

# Respect Your Sources: MLA Style

## Esquimalt High School Library Guide to Lists of Works Cited Using the MLA Style

For more information consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th edition (Call Number: REF 808.06615 GIB) or visit <http://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/> and click on **Library and Respect Your Sources**.

### How to Format the List of "Works Cited"

1. Start on a new page at the end of the paper. Type the words "Works Cited" centered at the top of the page.
2. Double space within and between entries.
3. Use hanging indents so that the first line of each reference begins at the left margin and subsequent lines are indented one half inch (much like the list you are reading, only you don't use numbers for each entry).
4. Arrange the entries **alphabetically** (by whatever starts each entry, usually the author's last name). Do not separate items in the list according to the format of publication: books in one section, websites in another.
5. Start each entry with the author's last name, even for web pages. If there is no author, use the editor's name. If there is no editor, start with the title of the book, webpage article, etc.
6. List the author's last name, followed by a comma then the author's first and/or middle name. Spell out the author's name. Do not substitute the author's initials. E.g. use "Woolf, Virginia" not "Woolf, V.".
7. If a work has more than one author, only invert the first author's name.
8. Italicize the titles of books, journals, magazines, newspapers, television series and films.
9. Article titles are placed within quotation marks. Also use quotation marks for the titles of short stories, book chapters, television program episodes, poems and songs.
10. Capitalize each "important word" in the titles of articles, books, etc. "Important words" means that this rule does not apply to "a, an, and, the" etc, unless this word is the first word of the title or subtitle.
11. Separate each element (author, date, title, etc.) by a period and one space.

**See Chapters 5 and 6 of the *MLA Handbook* referred to above for details on formatting and citation style.**

### Works Cited Examples

#### Book with two authors:

Friel, John and Linda Friel. *The 7 Best Things (Smart) Teens Do*. Deerfield Beach, FL: Health Communications, 2000.

#### Article in a reference Book (e.g. encyclopedia, dictionary etc):

Bercuson, David Jay. "Canada." *World Book Encyclopedia*. Chicago: World Book, 2005. Print.

#### Article in an online reference book with no author (e.g. Encyclopedia of BC, World Book Online)

"Esquimalt." *Encyclopedia of British Columbia*. Madeira Park, BC: Harbour. 2011. Web. 26 May 2011.

#### Book with an editor:

Raman-Wilms, Lalitha. ed. *Canadian Pharmacists' Association Guide to Drugs in Canada*. Toronto: Dorling Kindersley, 2004.

**Chapter from an edited book (two authors):**

Hunt, Suzanne and Janet Sawin. "Cultivating Renewable Alternatives to Oil." *State of the World 2006*. Ed. Linda Starke. New York: Norton, 2006. 61-77.

**Magazine article (print, microform, PDF), no author:**

"Aboriginal fashion." *SAY: Spirit of Aboriginal Youth Magazine* 2 (2004): 28-30. Print.

**Journal article (online from a library subscription database), one author:**

Vacant, Jeffrey. "Writing the History of Sexuality and 'National' History in Quebec." *Journal of Canadian Studies* 39: 31-55. Student Research Center. Web. 20 May 2006.

**Newspaper article, one author from an online database:**

Simpson, Jeffrey. "Do You Realize We're At War?" *The Globe and Mail* 20 May 2006: A17. *Canadian Periodical Index Quarterly*. Web. 22 May 2011.

**Newspaper article, no known author:**

"Statistics Canada: Count Yourself In." *Times-Colonist* [Victoria, BC] May 5 2006: A2. Print

**Web page with no known author and no known date:**

*Clones-R-Us*. (n.d.). Web. 2 April 2004.

**Reference Citations in Text**

When writing your paper, whenever you express words, facts, or ideas that are not your own, you need to refer the reader to the original source of that information. Those sources are then listed in the list of works cited. In MLA Style, usually the author's last name and a page number are used to identify the source and the specific location from which you borrowed the material.

See Chapter 6 [MLA Handbook](#) referred to above for more details on citing sources in the text.

**Examples of Citations in Text****Author's name in text with the page number following in parentheses:**

Tannen has argued this point (175-85).

**Author's name in text when citing the entire source no page number needed:**

Fukuyama's *Our Posthuman Future* includes many examples of this trend.

**Author's name in reference:**

This point has already been argued (Tannen 175-85).

**Author's name in reference when listing more than one source by the same author in Works Cited:**

She stated that "students often had difficulty," (Jones, *Student Success* 199), but does not elaborate further.

**No known author or date:** (Abbreviate the first few words from the title and add "n.d." for "no date")

It was discovered that students succeeded with tutoring ("Tutoring" n.d.).