

MLA (Modern Language Association) Referencing System

An introduction

Q. Why do you need to reference?

A. To show your teacher where you have conducted your research

It is important that you always acknowledge another author's work when preparing an assignment.

The reference you provide becomes the link between how you have conducted your research and what you have written. It shows your teacher the resources you have used, for example books, websites, magazines or newspaper articles.

It is also important that you do not just copy the work of another person and submit it as your own. This is called PLAGARISM and is a type of theft or fraud. The accuracy of direct quotations is crucial. They must reproduce the original sources exactly.

It is also important to remember that you must supply a reference to any idea that is taken and you have put into your own words.

Quotations

If a prose quotation runs to no more than four lines, put it in quotation marks and include it in the text.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," wrote Charles Dickens of the Eighteenth century.

If a quotation extends to more than four lines, set it off from the text as a block indented 1.5 cm from the left margin. Do not indent the first line or add quotation marks not present in the original.

At the conclusion of *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph, realizing the horror of his actions, is overcome by great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (186)

At the completion of your assignment or essay you also create a **"Works Cited"** list of all the material you quote and refer to in your assignment.

The basics of MLA referencing – Works Cited list

Core elements

The core elements of the entries in your Works Cited list are given below and in the order in which they should appear. An element may be omitted if the entry is not relevant to the work being documented.

Each element is followed by a punctuation mark, as show below. At the end of the final element you should have a full stop.

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 3 Title of container,
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version / Edition,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location date.

Containers

The concept of containers is crucial to the MLA style. When the source being documented forms part of a larger whole, the larger whole can be thought of as a container that holds the source. For example, a short story may be contained in an anthology. The short story is the source, and the anthology is the container.

The title of the container is normally italicised and is followed by a comma, since the information that comes next describes the container. The container may be a book that is a collection of essays, stories, poems, or other kinds of works.

Bazin, Patrick. "Toward Metareading." *The Future of the Book*, ed. by Geoffrey Nunberg, University of California Press, 1996, pp. 193-200.

In-Text Citations

This is the second major component of the MLA referencing and is inserted in your text to indicate the source you have consulted. This in-text citation should clearly direct any reader of your work directly to the works in your works-cited list.

A typical in-text citation is composed of the element that comes first in the entry in the works-cited list (usually the author's surname) and the page number. It is placed if possible where there is a natural pause in the text; usually at the end of a quote, sentence or paragraph.

Book – One author

In text

Reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (Baron 194). One might even suggest that reading is never complete without writing.

Works cited

Baron, Naomi S. “Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communications Media.” *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

More than one work by an author

In-text

If you cite more than one work by an author, include a shortened title for the particular work from which you are quoting to distinguish it from the others. Put short titles of books in italics and short titles of articles in quotation marks.

Reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (Baron, “Redefining” 194). One might even suggest that reading is never complete without writing.

Works cited

To document two or more works by the same author, give the author’s name in the first entry only. Thereafter, in place of the name type three hyphens. They stand for exactly the same name as the preceding entry.

Borroff, Marie. *Language and the Poet: Verbal Artistry in Frost, Stevens, and Moore*. U of Chicago P, 1979.

---. “Sound Symbolism as Drama in the Poetry of Robert Frost.” *PLMA*, vol. 107, no. 1, Jan. 1992, pp. 131-44. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/462806.

---. Ed. *Wallace Stevens: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Prentice-Hall, 1963.

Edited work

Cite the work as you normally would, but add the editor after the title with the description, ed.

In text

(Engle xxxl)

Works cited

Engle, Jerrett, editor. *The Wisdom of George Eliot*. New York: Citadel Press, 2002. p. xxxl.

Poem or short story

The title of an essay, a story or a poem, in a collection, as a larger part of a whole, is placed in quotation marks.

In text

(Carver 69-92)

Works cited

Carver, Raymond. "So much water so close to home." *Short cuts: selected stories*. Vintage Contemporaries, 1993. pp. 69-92.

Secondary sources

Sometimes an author of a book, article or website will mention another person's work by using a quotation or paraphrased idea from that source. (This may be called a secondary source.) For example the book you are reading about Siegfried Sassoon by John Stuart Roberts includes a quotation about Sassoon by Oliver that he was "absolutely crushed".

In text

(Oliver qtd. in Roberts 246)

Works cited

Roberts, John Stuart. *Siegfried Sassoon 1886-1967*. Richard Coen Books, 2000, p. 246.

Citations from other sources

Journal/Magazine (From a subscription database)

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article: Subtitle if any." Name of Journal, vol. Volume Number, no. Issue Number, Date of Publication, pp. First Page Number-Last Page Number. Name of Database, doi:DOI number.

In text

(King)

Works cited

King, Daniel P. "Wilfred Owen." *World Literature Today*, 88, 6 2014, pp. 74-75. Australia New Zealand Reference Centre Plus, Web 7 Feb. 2017.

A-V Materials

DVD or Film – Who do you credit?

Many people can be involved in the production of a video and not all need to be listed in the citation. Typically the director, producer and/or writer are the names that are used. To clarify what role the person has in the production; their job title such as Director is put after their name in round brackets if the job title is known.

DVD

In text

(Blue Jasmine)

Works cited

Blue Jasmine. Writ. and Dir. Woody Allen. Gravier Productions, 2013. DVD.

Podcast radio program (with known author)

Creator information may often be found under a section called “About” for some types of social media, however this is not always standard.

In text

(Kanowski)

Works cited

Kanowski, Sarah. “Jonathan Franzen in conversation.” *RN: Books and Arts*. 1 July 2016. Internet. 1 Feb. 2017. Podcast.

YouTube (without a known author)

(North by Northwest Tribute)

Works cited

North by Northwest Tribute 50th Anniversary: trailer. *YouTube*. 13 Dec. 2009, Video File. 1 February 2017.

Images - Photograph/painting/sculpture

Last Name, First Name. Title of Artwork. Composition date, medium of the piece, location of institution where artwork is held.

In text

(Greeno)

Works cited

Greeno, Lola. *Shell necklace*. 2015, maireener shell, Museum of Modern and New Art, Hobart. Photograph.

Image/photograph/artwork from a book

In text

(Howard 33)

Works cited

Howard, Tom. *Hardy Country*. London: Regency House Publishing, 1995, p. 33.

Image from a Database

In text

(Bray)

Works cited

Bray, Caroline (1814-1905). *Portrait of George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) (1819-80) 1845* (pencil). 01 Oct. 2004. Bridgeman. eLibrary. Web. 1 Feb. 2017.

Website

It is always a good idea to maintain personal copies of electronic information, when possible. Save copies as a PDF for future reference. Alternatively use the Bookmark function in your web browser so you can return to documents more easily.

The 8th edition of MLA recommends including URLs when you cite online sources. It is a good idea to always check with your teacher first if this is what they wish and include URLs at their discretion.

If you include the URL or web address to help readers to locate your sources. Do not include the https:

In text

(Constantine)

Works cited

Constantine, Reviewed. "Book Of A Lifetime: Silas Marner, By George Eliot". The Independent, 2017, www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/book-of-a-lifetime-silas-marner-by-george-eliot-1771566.html. Web. Accessed 2 Feb. 2017.

If you are using a subscription or scholarly database, articles you use from these sources may include a DOI (digital object identifier). If a DOI is available, you can cite the DOI number instead of a URL.

Works cited:

MLA Handbook. 8th ed. New York: *The Modern Language Association of America*, 2016.

Murdoch University. MLA Style. Sample Works Cited List. 2017. Web. 1 Feb. 2017.

The Purdue OWL. Purdue U Writing Lab, 2016.

University of Alberta. MLA Citation Style QuickGuide. Nov. 2016 Web. 8 Feb. 2017.

MLA (Modern Language Association) Referencing System

An introduction

Works cited list

Alphabetical order in Works cited list

When putting works in alphabetical order, ignore initial articles. For example the title *The Wisdom of George Eliot* would be alphabetized as if it started with the word *George* instead of the word *The*.

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communications Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

Blue Jasmine. Writ. and Dir. Wood Allen. Gravier Productions, 2013. DVD.

Borroff, Marie. *Language and the Poet: Verbal Artistry in Frost, Stevens, and Moore*. U of Chicago P, 1979.

--. "Sound Symbolism as Drama in the Poetry of Robert Frost." *PLMA*, vol. 107, no. 1, Jan. 1992, pp. 131-44. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/462806.

---. Ed. *Wallace Stevens: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Prentice-Hall, 1963.

Bray, Caroline (1814-1905). *Portrait of George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) (1819-80) 1845* (pencil). 01 Oct. 2004. Bridgeman. eLibrary. Web. 1 Feb. 2017.

Constantine, Reviewed. "Book Of A Lifetime: Silas Marner, By George Eliot". *The Independent*, 2017, www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/book-of-a-lifetime-silas-marner-by-george-eliot-1771566.html. Web. Accessed 2 Feb. 2017.

Engle, Jerrett, editor. *The Wisdom of George Eliot*. New York: Citadel Press, 2002. p. xxxi.

Greeno, Lola. *Shell necklace*. 2015, maireener shell, Museum of Modern and New Art, Hobart. Photograph.

Howard, Tom. *Hardy Country*. London: Regency House Publishing, 1995, p. 33.

Kanowski, Sarah. "Jonathan Franzen in conversation." *RN: Books and Arts*. 1 July 2016. Internet. 1 Feb. 2017.

King, Daniel P. "Wilfred Owen." *World Literature Today*, 88, 6 2014, pp. 74-75. Australia New Zealand Reference Centre Plus, Web 7 Feb. 2017.

North by Northwest Tribute 50th Anniversary: trailer. *YouTube*. 13 Dec. 2009, Video File. 1 February 2017.

Roberts, John Stuart. *Siegfried Sassoon 1886-1967*. Richard Coen Books, 2000, p. 246.