

MLA Style

The following gives a simplified version of some basic features of the MLA style of documenting sources. For details, check *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

- When quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing another person's ideas, include enough information in parentheses **after the reference but before the end punctuation** for the reader to locate the complete source in your bibliography. Usually, the author's surname and a page number is sufficient.
- **Do not repeat information** that has already been noted in the body of the text.
- If the document has no page or section numbers (for example, if it is an online source), **use the the author's name** alone.
- If the document has no author, **use a word from the title** to identify it.

EXAMPLES:

One writer points out that money and the desire for independence are the prime motivating factors for young people looking for their first job (Schaffer 7).

As Karen Schaffer writes in *Hire Power*, "I can muse all I like about happiness, skills, and career opportunities, but the truth of the matter is that many of us would never get a job if we didn't need the money" (7).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- MLA style uses the heading **Works Cited**, centred at the top of the page.
- Entries should be **double-spaced** and **listed alphabetically by author** (if no author is given, use the title).
- All lines except the first line of each entry should be **indented five spaces**.

Book with one author

Schaffer, Karen. *Hire Power: The Ultimate Job Guide for Young Canadians*. Toronto: Prentice-Hall Canada, 1997.

Book with two authors

James, Peter, and Nick Thorpe. *Ancient Inventions*. New York: Ballantine, 1994.

Book with no author

Language Power Book J. Toronto: Gage Learning Corporation, 2004.

Book with an editor

Halpern, Daniel, ed. *The Art of the Story: An International Anthology of Contemporary Short Stories*. New York: Penguin, 1999.

One piece in a collection or anthology

Mukherjee, Bharati. "The Management of Grief." *The Art of the Story: An International Anthology of Contemporary Short Stories*. Ed. Daniel Halpern. New York: Penguin, 1999. 435-47.

Magazine article

Note: For weekly or daily magazines, write the date as you would for a newspaper article (e.g., 9 Mar. 2002). For seasonal magazines, write the season and the year (e.g., Spring 2002).

Hampson, Sarah. "Lady of the House." *Toronto Life* Dec. 2002: 109.

Newspaper article

Note: Use the + symbol only if the article appears on several pages that are not in sequence.

Whittington, Les. "Boom in Jobs Heralds Rebound." *Saturday Star* 9 Mar. 2002, Ont. ed.: A1+.

Video

Note: If you are citing the work of an actor or director, begin the entry with his or her name, followed by the title.

The Grey Fox. Dir. Phillip Borsos. Perf. Richard Farnsworth and Jackie Burroughs. Videocassette. Media Home Entertainment, 1983.

Web pages

Note: The first date listed is the date the article or information was posted (if available). The second date is the date when it was retrieved from the site by the user. Use angled brackets around URL addresses.

Mah, Bill. "City's Hand-Held Cellphone Ban Placed on Hold." *Edmonton Journal* 4 Apr. 2002. 5 Apr. 2002 <<http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/story.asp?id={2F8F947D-F919-4227-A371-7594D518BA45}>>.