

## MLA STYLE FOR CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES: A BRIEF GUIDE

The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 2009, is the standard guide for college students to the documentation style of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The following information is based on the *Handbook*. Consult the full *Handbook* (at the reference desk, 808.02 M685 2009) for specific citation types not included here. **ALSO: The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University has created a very good online guide (with many examples) to the MLA style. You can access it at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>.**

**Research Tip:** As you proceed with your research, **print the first page** of any electronic source you will be citing in your paper. This printed copy will usually include the date of access and other information needed for the citation.

**Parenthetical Citation in Text:** Electronic sources can include electronic books, periodical articles, and professional and personal websites. Parenthetical references in the text are cited just like printed works, but Web documents usually do not have fixed page or section numbers. If your source lacks numbering, you must omit numbers from your parenthetical references, but if it includes page numbers or section numbers, such as numbering of paragraphs, cite the relevant numbers.

**The Works Cited List:** In addition to information required for its print counterpart, a citation for an electronic source must include information required to access the electronic source, as illustrated in the examples below.

Notes: When certain information is missing from the electronic source, it must be noted in the citation (see examples below).  
 If there is more than one author, give names in the same order as on the title page. If there are more than three authors, you may name only the first and add et al (“and others”), for example, Edens, Walter, et al.  
 Include a URL as supplementary information only when the reader probably cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it.

The examples below are single spaced to save room, but entries on a Works Cited list must be **double spaced**.

### ***Citing an Online Book or Part of an Online Book that also Appeared in Print:***

<b>Format</b>	Author’s Last Name, First Name [if given]. “Title of the Book Part.” <i>Title of Book</i> . Publication information for original print version, i.e., Editor [if given], Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of print publication, page number(s) [if applicable]. Information for the electronic version, i.e., <i>Title of the Subscription Service or Website</i> . Medium. Day Month year of access.
<b>Example</b>	Waldrep, Christopher, and Michael A. Bellesiles. <i>Documenting American Violence: A Sourcebook</i> . New York: Oxford UP, 2006. <i>NetLibrary</i> . Web. 13 June 2008.
<b>Example</b>	“Greenhouse Effect.” <i>World of Physics</i> . Ed. Kimberley A. McGrath. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2007. N.pag. <i>Science Resource Center, Gale</i> . Web. 9 Jan. 2008.
<b>Example</b>	Dunbar, Paul L. “A Death Song.” <i>The Book of American Negro Poetry</i> . Ed. James W. Johnson. New York: Harcourt, 1922. N. pag. <i>Bartleby.com: Great Books Online</i> . 2002. Web. 10 Sept. 2008.

### ***Citing an Online Book or Part of an Online Book Available Only on the Web:***

<b>Format</b>	Author or Editor’s Last Name, First Name. <i>Title of Book</i> [in quotes if part of a book]. <i>Title of the Website</i> . Editor of website [if given]. Publisher or sponsor of site [or N.p. if not available], Date of electronic publication [or N.d. if not available]. Medium. Day Month year of access.
<b>Example</b>	Powers, Robert. <i>War Stories: A Sailor Remembers the Vietnam War</i> . <i>Historical Text Archive</i> . Ed. Donald J. Mabry. N.p., 2006. Web. 25 Feb. 2008.

### ***Citing an Online Government Publication or Report:***

<b>Format</b>	Government Name. Government Agency. <i>Title of Online Publication</i> . By Author’s First Name and Last Name [if given]. Place of publication: Publisher name, Date of publication [if available]. Medium. Day Month year of access.
<b>Example</b>	United States. Dept. of Justice. Natl. Inst. of Justice. <i>Prosecuting Gangs: A National Assessment</i> . By Claire Johnson, Barbara Webster, and Edward Connors. Feb. 1995. Web. 29 Mar. 1998.
<b>Example</b>	United States. Dept. of Justice. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <i>Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime</i> . Washington: GPO, 2001. Web. 29 June 2002.

**Citing an Article in a Magazine or Newspaper from a Subscription Database such as EBSCOhost or Opposing Viewpoint:**

<b>Format</b>	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Periodical</i> Date: pages [or n. pag]. <i>Name of Database</i> . Medium. Day Month year of access.
<b>Example</b>	Kokmen, Leyla. "Environmental Justice for All." <i>Utne Reader</i> Mar./Apr. 2008: 42-46. <i>Health Source - Consumer Edition, EBSCOhost</i> . Web. 10 Sept. 2008.
<b>Example</b>	Neuharth, Al. "Why Smallest States Suffer Most in Iraq." <i>USA Today</i> 28 Mar. 2008: A9. <i>Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center, Gale</i> . Web. 30 Apr. 2008.

Note: A periodical article on the Web may not include page numbers. If possible, give the numbers or, when pagination is not continuous, use the first page number and a plus sign; if pagination is not available, use n. pag.

**Citing an Article in a Scholarly Journal from a Subscription Database such as CQ Researcher or ProQuest:**

<b>Format</b>	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Periodical</i> volume number.issue number (year): pages [or n. pag]. <i>Name of Database</i> . Medium. Day Month year of access.
<b>Example</b>	Billitteri, Thomas J. "Cyberbullying." <i>CQ Researcher</i> 18.17 (2008): 385-408. <i>CQ Researcher Online</i> . Web. 7 July 2008.
<b>Example</b>	Webster, Mort, Lisa Jakobovits, and James Norton. "Learning about Climate Change and Implications for Near-Term Policy." <i>Climatic Change</i> 89.1-2 (2008): 67-85. <i>Sciences Module, ProQuest</i> . Web. 23 Aug. 2008.

Note: To identify the specific ProQuest Database or Module, it is necessary to use the ProQuest 'Cite this' link within the Document View screen - please ask a Reference Librarian for help in doing this.

**Citing an Article from an Online Periodical Directly from the Web (not accessed through the GCC Library website):**

<b>Format</b>	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Online Periodical</i> . [no period if volume number.issue number are available] volume number.issue number (year) OR Day Month year of Publication [for popular magazines or newspapers]: paragraphs [or pages or n. pag]. Medium. Day Month year of access.
<b>Example of popular newspaper</b>	"Climate Change May Kill Great Barrier Reef by 2050." <i>International Herald Tribune</i> . 2 Feb. 2007: n. pag. Web. 21 Dec. 2007.
<b>Example of scholarly journal</b>	Reidsma, Pytrik, and Frank Ewert. "Regional Farm Diversity Can Reduce Vulnerability of Food Production to Climate Change." <i>Ecology and Society</i> 13.1 (2008): 38. Web. 1 Oct. 2008.

**Citing an Interview, Article, or Document from a Website:**

<b>Format</b>	Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Document or Article Web page." <i>Title of Website</i> . Publisher or sponsor of site [or N.p. if not available], Day Month year of latest update [or n.d. if not available]. Medium. Day Month year of access.
<b>Example</b>	Rodriguez, Richard. "A View from the Melting Pot: An Interview with Richard Rodriguez." Interview by Scott London. <i>Scott London</i> . Scott London, 2008. Web. 3 June 2008.
<b>Example</b>	Martinez, Nadia, and Juan Montecino. "Bolivians Struggle for Democracy." <i>FPIF: Foreign Policy in Focus</i> . Institute for Policy Studies, 2009. Web. 23 Oct. 2008.
<b>Example</b>	"The Constitution of Botswana." <i>Constitution Finder</i> . University of Richmond, 19 Sept. 2008. Web. 5 Nov. 2007.

Note: Use this format (above) when the Title of the document, article, etc. is different than the Title of the website. If they are the same, use the format below. Also, if citing an interview, the name of the person interviewed comes first; see Rodriguez example.

**Citing a Website or Part of a Website:**

<b>Format</b>	Author's Last Name, First Name. <i>Title of the Website</i> . Publisher or sponsor of site [or N.p. if not available], Day Month year of latest update [or n.d. if not available]. Medium. Day Month year of access.
<b>Example</b>	Brandes, Jay. <i>Maya Angelou: A Bibliography of Literary Criticism</i> . N.p., 20 Aug. 1997. Web. 7 May 2008.
<b>Example</b>	Exploratorium: The Museum of Science, Art and Human Perception. <i>Global Climate Change Research Explorer</i> . National Science Foundation, 2002. Web. 27 Nov. 2007.