

Citation Style Guide--MLA

Luzerne County Community College Library

When writing a research paper, you must document sources and avoid plagiarism. That is, you will have to indicate, by means of a notation system, where you got your information. Citations are required when direct quotes are used, when original ideas or research is summarized, and when facts, such as statistics, are noted. The most commonly used citation style systems are MLA (from the Modern Language Association, used in humanities), APA (from the American Psychological Association, used in social sciences) and the Chicago manual (and the simplified version by Turabian, used primarily in history). Always check with your instructors to see which style they prefer. This guide provides the most commonly used examples for the MLA style. For atypical examples, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6th edition) or the website, *MLA Formatting and Style Guide*, prepared by the staff at the Open Writing Lab of Purdue University: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>.

Works Cited Examples

An alphabetized list of research sources, which appears at the end of your paper, gives full publication information. Commonly used formats are below.

Book with One Author

Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Book with More than One Author

Lastname, Firstname and Firstname Lastname. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

A Work in an Anthology or Reference Book

Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Essay or Article." Title of Anthology or Reference Book. Ed. Editor's Name(s). Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pages.

An Article in a Magazine or Newspaper

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical Day Month Year: pages.

An Article in a Scholarly Journal

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume. Issue (Year): pages.

A Webpage

Author (if available). "Name of Webpage." Date (of posting/revision). Name of institution/ organization affiliated with the main website. Day Month Year (when accessed) Webpage address.

An Article from an Electronic Resource Database

When citing material accessed via an electronic resource database, such as *Academic Search Elite*, cite the relevant publication information as you would for a periodical followed by the name of the database, the name of the library through which you accessed the content, including the library's city and state, plus date of access. Include the website address for the electronic resource database.

Aikman, David. "Puncturing Atheism." Christianity Today 51.10 (October 2007): 110-110. Academic Search Elite--EBSCO. Luzerne County Community College Library, Nanticoke, PA. 4 April 2008 <<http://www.ebscohost.com/>>.

MLA In-Text Citation Examples

An in-text citation names the author of the source and gives the page number in parentheses. See the following examples.

An estimated 14% of Americans profess to be atheists, according to the Institute for Humanist Studies (Lee-St. John 99).

"No, I don't know that Atheists should be considered as citizens, nor should they be considered as patriots. This is one nation under God," George H. W. Bush said (Robinson).

Sigmund Freud considers belief in God and an afterlife as illusions that usually do not work (Edwards 374).

MLA Works Cited Examples

At the end of the paper, a list of works cited provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetized by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors).

Works Cited

Edwards, Paul. "Atheism." Encyclopedia of Philosophy. 2nd ed. Ed. Donald Borchert. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006. 356-377.

Hitchens, Christopher. God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything. New York: Twelve, 2007.

Kammermeier, Paul. "Reaction to Anti-Atheism Essay." Christian Science Monitor 99.229 (23 Oct. 2007): 9-9. Academic Search Elite. EBSCO. Luzerne County Community College Library, Nanticoke, PA. 4 April 2008 <<http://www.ebscohost.com/>>.

Lee-St. John, Jeninne. "Sunday School for Atheists." Time 3 Dec. 2007: 99-99.

Robinson, B.A. "Atheism: Belief in No God, or No Belief in God; There is a Difference." 22 Feb. 2008. 4 Apr. 2008. <http://www.religioustolerance.org/atheist.htm>.