

Basic MLA Style Guide

Luzerne County Community College Library

MLA is the standard citation and style for the humanities and liberal arts. This guide provides basic examples for the MLA style. For more complete information, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th 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/747/01/>.

In order to avoid plagiarism, you must properly credit the sources you use when writing a research paper. You should indicate specifically where you got your information. Citations are always required when direct quotes are used, when someone else's ideas or research is summarized, and when facts, such as statistics, are noted.

Examples of Works Cited

The conventions of sequence, punctuation, and capitalization in the MLA style for the Works Cited section can most easily be illustrated with examples. Commonly used formats are below.

Book with One Author (Print)

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Print.

eBook with One Author (Web)

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. *Title of the resource*. Web. Day Month Year of access.

Book with More than One Author

(If ebook, also include title of resource and date of access as in example above.)

Lastname, Firstname and Firstname Lastname. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of publication.

A Work in an Anthology or Reference Book (Print)

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

An Article in a Magazine or Newspaper (Print)

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

An Article in a Scholarly Journal (Print)

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

A Page from a Website

Editor, author, or compiler name. "Article or Page Name." *Name of Website*. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the website, date of resource creation. Web. Day Month Year of access.

Note: a URL is no longer required for MLA if requested by instructor include it at the end of the citation in angle brackets. <<https://depts.luzerne.edu/library>>

An Article from a Periodical in an Electronic Resource Database

When citing material accessed through an electronic resource database, such as *Academic Search Premier*, cite the relevant publication information as you would for a newspaper, magazine, or journal followed by the name of the database, the medium (i.e., Print or Web), and the date accessed.

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume. Issue (Year): pages. *Database Name*. Day Month Year of access.

Vallentyne, Peter. "On The Duty of Altruism." *Journal of Social Philosophy* 44.2 (2013): 118-120. *Academic Search Premier*. EBSCO. Web. 13 Oct. 2011.

Examples of In-Text Citations

In the body of the research paper, an in-text citation names the author of the source and gives the page number of the reference in parentheses. See the following examples.

Americans donate approximately 3% of their income to charity, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy (Daniels 25).

"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness," King stated (146).

Richard Dawkins contends that humans are programmed to act in their own self-interest (Dixon 52).

Example of a MLA Works Cited Page

At the end of the research paper, a list of works cited provides publication information about the sources. The list is alphabetized by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). See the following example.

Works Cited

Begley, Sarah. "How to Do Well When You Do Good." *Time* 6 Jul. 2015: 33-34. Print.

Brown, Charlotte R. "Altruism." *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 2nd ed. Ed. Donald Borchert. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006. 136-137. Print.

Cardozo, Benjamin N. "The Altruist in Politics." Columbia College. New York, NY. 1889. Commencement Address. *Project Gutenberg*.. Web. 13 Oct. 2011.

Goodman, Jonathan. "Altruism and the Golden Rule." *Zygon: Journal Of Religion & Science* June 2014: 381-395. *Academic Search Premier*. EBSCO. Web. 26 Apr. 2016.

Nowak, M.A. and Roger Highfield. *Supercooperators: Altruism, Evolution, and Why We Need Each Other to Succeed*. New York: Free Press, 2011. Print.