

General MLA Format 8th edition

1. **Heading:** MLA form does not use a title or cover page, rather it simply uses a standard heading. This heading starts with the student's name, then follows with the teacher's name, the course title, and the date written European style (e.g. 15 April 2002).
2. **Title:** After the heading with no extra space, there should be a title for the work written in normal text without adornment (no underline, quotation marks, etc.).
3. **Margins/Spacing:** There should be a 1" margin on all sides of the paper. The page number should be ½" from the top of the page. Use the "header" function in your word processor to do this. The entire paper should be double spaced.
4. **Page Numbers:** All pages are numbered in MLA form, even the first one. The student's last name and the page number should appear in the upper right of the page.
5. **Binding:** A single staple in the upper left is the only binding that should be used. There is no need for plastic covers or similar binders.
6. **Font:** Papers should be printed in a 12-point font using Times New Roman font style in black ink.
7. **Length:** When a teacher specifies a page range for a paper (e.g. 2 to 4 pages), a page will be defined as a minimum of 22 lines of at least 70 spaces per line for the purpose of determining whether a paper meets that length requirement.

Example

Jones 1

John Jones

Mr. Smith

English 9

7 May 2002

The Shakespeare Controversy

Almost four hundred years after his death, it may be surprising to some people that noted critics still believe that William Shakespeare did not write the plays that are attributed to him (Wallace 3). In fact, as A. L. Rowse suggests, many are unwilling to accept that an actor could have written such great plays, so they naturally look to more "learned" men (71).

How to do the Works Cited page MLA 8th Edition

For a Book

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher's Name, Date of Publication.

*Only include the city if the book was printed outside of the US.

Bradley, James. *The Once and Final War*. Simon and Schuster, 1986.

Two authors

Olsen, Gregg, and Rebecca Morris. *If I Can't Have You: Susan Powell, Her Mysterious*

Disappearance, and the Murder of Her Children. St. Martin's True Crime, 2015, pp. 18-22.

Three or more authors

Matthews, Graham, et al. *Disaster Management in Archives, Libraries, and Museums*. Ashgate, 2009.

For an Essay or Chapter in a Book with an Editor

Essay or Chapter Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Essay or Chapter." *Title of Book*, edited by or translated by (name), Publisher's Name, Date of Publication. Page numbers.
Livingstone, Marco. "The Artist as American." *Mark Twain's America: A Critical Study*, edited by Christopher Simpson, Prentice-Hall, 1986, pp. 7-15.

A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection

Works may include an essay in an edited collection or anthology, or a chapter of a book. The

basic form is for this sort of citation is as follows:

Last Name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*, edited by John Miller, Publisher, Year. Page range of entry.

Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*, edited by Ben Rafoth, Heinemann, 2000, pp. 24-34.

Poem or Short Story Examples

Burns, Robert. "Red, Red Rose." *100 Best-Loved Poems*, edited by Philip Smith, Dover, 1995, pp. 26.

For an Encyclopedia Article

Author's Last Name, First Name (if author of specific article is available). "Title of Article."

Name of Encyclopedia. Editor of Encyclopedia. Volume number. Publisher's Name, Date of Publication.

Rice, Edward. "Grand Canyon." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, edited by Janette Bruins. Vol. 14. Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1985.

For an Article in a Periodical (a Magazine or a Newspaper)

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Name of Periodical*, Date of Periodical, vol.

#, no. #, Date of Publication, Page Numbers.

Smith, Jane and Melinda Hernandez. "Domestic Violence in the United States." *Newsweek*, vol. 16, no. 6, 1993, pp. 48-49.

Wright, Karen. "The First Earthlings." *Discover*, vol. 25, no. 11, 2003, pp. 24-25.

Citing an Entire Web Site

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available as a range of dates), web address. Date of access. (Optional)

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008-2010. www.owl.com.

"Historical Census Browser." University of Virginia Library.
<http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/>. Accessed 23 Apr 2013.

A Page on a Web Site

Last Name, First Name. "Title of article." *Name of site*. Name of organization affiliated with site.
Date created (if found), web address. Date of access. (Optional)

Musinsky, Gerald. "Animal Spirits." *Encyclopedia Mythica*, 2006,
www.encyclopediamythica.com. Accessed 8 Apr 2013.

Aristotle. "Poetics." Trans. S. H. Butcher. *The Internet Classics Archive*, 25 Apr. 2013,
classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.html.

An Article from an Online Database (or Other Electronic Subscription Service)

Last name, First name of author. "Title of the article." *Title of the periodical*, Date Published,
Page numbers. *Title of the database*, web address. Date of Access. (Optional)

Junge, Wolfgang, and Nathan Nelson. "Nature's Rotary Electromotors." *Science*, 29 Apr. 2005,
642-44. *Science Online*. www.scienceonline.com.

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical
Journal*, 50.1 (2007), 173-96. *ProQuest*. www.proquest.com.

Elizabethan Age." *World History: The Modern Era. ABC-CLIO*, 2009.
www.worldhistory.abc-clio.com.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is copying another person's work without giving proper credit to the original source of the information. Activities considered to be plagiarism include:

- copying phrases or sentences from books and other sources
- without including an in-text citation.
- copying and pasting information from the Internet into your paper.
- downloading other people's papers, articles, or essays and submitting them as your own.

The best ways to avoid plagiarism are:

- paraphrase the author's information into your own words and
- then add an in-text citation at the end of each sentence you rephrased.
- use quotation marks around the sentence you want to use directly from your source, using the directions for in-text citations, below.

In-text Citations

Every sentence containing information from your sources must include the author's name and the page number where the information was located. If you are quoting a source without an author, you must shorten the title of the article to two or three words, enclose the shortened title in quotes, and then give the paragraph number where the information was located.

Direct quote with in-text citation

"Mark Twain's genius lies in his ability to create complex characters easily" (Smith 48).

"Experts reported that pharmaceutical companies may be on the verge of discovering a cure for high blood pressure and some forms of heart disease" ("Soon High Blood" par. 3).

Partial quote with in-text citation

Mark Twain is famous for "his ability to create complex characters" without much effort (Rice 113).

Companies who are researching this disease are "on the verge of discovering a cure for high blood pressure" in the near future ("Soon High Blood" par. 3).

Paraphrase with in-text citation

According to Bradley, Twain is known for developing characters with complicated personalities (90).

Drug companies may be close to finding a cure for high blood pressure ("Soon High Blood" par. 3).

Works Cited Format

- If a detail of your source is not available, such as an author of an encyclopedia article or web site, then skip this detail and continue on to the next detail about your source.
- Be sure to list the sources on your Works Cited page in alphabetical order by Author's Last Name. If there is no author (such as on a web site), then alphabetize by the first word of the title.

Be sure to double-space your Works Cited page, and indent the second line of any source information by using your Tab key (indent 5 spaces). Do not number the sources on the Works Cited page.

Last Updated: 10/16