Guide to MLA Style

MLA Style is an editorial style developed by the Modern Language Association and used for written materials in the humanities. MLA Style provides a standard system for giving credit to others for their contribution to your work. To do this, MLA Style requires you to cite the sources you have used in two places: the in-text citation and as part of your works cited list at the end of your paper. The purpose of citing sources is to allow you to use the ideas and works of other researchers while avoiding plagiarizing them.

This guide is based on the 7th edition of the MLA style manual. For more information please see our online guide at http://libraryguides.cobleskill.edu/cite.

In-Text Citation

When you paraphrase a source or include a direct quote in your paper, you need to provide enough information for a reader to easily locate the citation in your list of references at the end of the paper. MLA Style does this with the author-page method of in-text citation. Each quotation or paraphrase must include the author's last name, a short title if more than one work by the same author is used, and the page number. Below are a few examples of in-text citation:

**Identify the author in the text and give the page reference at the end:**
Hale has argued this point (145-47).

**Identify the author and page at the end:**
This point has previously been argued (Hale 145-47).

**Identify a short title if more than one work by an author is used:**
When women enter a male occupation, “pay, recognition, and opportunities drop” (Fillmore, Women MBA's, 195).

**Identify the source within a sentence when necessary for clarity:**
As Long (37) had predicted, research demonstrated a relationship between smoking and cancer (Smith 234).
Works Cited Page

- Arrange alphabetically by author’s last name
- Arrange anonymous (no author) works by the first significant word in the title
- If there are more than three authors, you may choose to list only the first author followed by the phrase et al.
- Double-space between each entry
- Indent the second line of each entry (a hanging indent)
- MLA no longer requires the use of URLs in MLA citations

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<tr>
<th>Material Type</th>
<th>Reference List Citation Format</th>
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<td>Author and Author (last name, first name and first name first for other authors). <em>Title.</em> Place of publication: Publisher, year.</td>
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<td>Author Lastname, Author Firstname. <em>Title of Book.</em> Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Name of Database or Website. Medium of Publication. Day Month Year.</td>
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<td>Article in a print journal, magazine or newspaper</td>
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REMINDER: cite your sources to avoid plagiarism

When writing your paper, you MUST identify the source of any
• quotation
• facts
• idea or opinion that is not your own

As you research, keep a good record of all the sources you use and where your information comes from. One of the most effective ways to avoid plagiarism is to summarize in your own words as you take notes, rather than copy whole sections word for word.

Additional citing help at: http://libraryguides.cobleskill.edu/cite