



MLA Documentation Examples

When you write a research paper in the humanities, you will be required to document all information you use in the format standardized by the Modern Language Association (MLA). Here is a list of various types of sources as they would appear on a Works Cited page or bibliography. The corresponding in-text citation is given with each source type. On your Works Cited page, list sources alphabetically by author's last name, regardless of their source types. If no author is provided, use the next available piece of information (usually the title) for both the Works Cited page and the in-text citation.

Books:

Trimble, John R. Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1975.

In-text note: (Trimble 7)

Books with two or more authors:

Witte, Stephen P. and Lester Faigley. Evaluating College Writing Programs. Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 1983.

In-text note: (Witte and Faigley 46)

Books with an editor instead of an author:

Vesterman, William, ed. Readings for the 21st Century: Tomorrow's Issues for Today's Students. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1991.

In-text note: (Vasterman 12)

Articles:

Erard, Michael. "Colons Descending: An Interim Assessment." English Today 12.4 (1996): 43-45.

In-text note: (Erard 44)

Articles without authors:

"Negro College Fund: Mission Is Still Important on 50th Anniversary." Editorial. Dallas Morning News 8 Oct. 1994: A28.

In-text note: ("Negro College" A28) –*Notice: use an abbreviated title in the parenthetical citation*

Anthology selection:

Rich, Adrienne. "Claiming an Education." Conversations: Reading for Writing. 2nd edition. Ed. Jack Selzer. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1991. 88-93.

In-text note: (Rich 90)

Personal interview:

Gomes, Peter. Personal interview. 23 Apr. 1997.

In-text note: (Gomes) –*Notice: since there is no page number, omit it from the note*

Reference work or Encyclopedia:

Benedict, Roger William. "Northwest Passage." Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropedia. 1974 ed.

In-text note: (Benedict 117)

Government Document:

United States. Congress. Joint Committee on Printing. 1985-86 Official Congressional Directory. 99th Congress, 1st session. Washington: GPO, 1985.

In-text note: *Avoid a lengthy note by naming the document in the body of your essay and placing only the relevant page numbers between parentheses.*

Advertisement:

Subaru Outback. Advertisement. Brill's Content Feb. 2000: 37.

In-text note: *Naming the advertisement in the paper itself is preferable to having a parenthetical note.*

Film:

Mrs. Winterbourne. Dir. Richard Benjamin. Perf. Shirley MacLaine and Ricki Lake. TriStar Pictures, 1996.

In-text note: *Name the film in the body of your paper.*

Personal website with no title:

Syverson, Peg. Home page. 18 November 1999 <<http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~syverson/>>.

In-text note: (Syverson) –*Notice: since most websites do not have page numbers, omit the page number*

Professional website:

“Annual Report 1996-97.” The Undergraduate Writing Center, The University of Texas at Austin. 18 Nov. 1999 <<http://uwc.fac.utexas.edu/about/report/96-97>>.

In-text note: (“Annual Report”)

Materials accessed from an online database:

"Jazz." britannica.com. 18 Nov. 1998 <<http://search.britannica.com/bcom/eb/article/10,5716,118791+1,00.html>>.

In-text note: (“Jazz”)

Online articles:

Slatin, John. "La Zambinella Meets the Cyborg: Barthes, S/Z, and Print-Based Literary Studies." CWRL: The Electronic Journal for Computer Writing, Rhetoric and Literature 3.1 (1997). 18 Nov. 1999 <<http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~cwrl/v3n1/zambinella/index.html>>.

In-text note: (Slatin)

Email communications or discussion group postings:

Kostka, Ericka. "E-mail Communication in Freshman Composition." Online posting. 11 September 1997. CWRL Message Forum. 7 July 1998 <<http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/cgi-bin/forum/cwrl.main>>.

In-text note: (Kostka)

There is a new online resource designed to help writers generate works cited pages:

Check out NoodleBib, a new resource brought to you by the UT Libraries and the UWC. NoodleBib will help you create a works cited page online, for either MLA or APA style, and then save it as a Word document. Go to: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/noodlebib/index.html> and check out NoodleBib for yourself.

For more information about the principles of MLA style and how MLA format works, consult the “MLA Documentation Format” handout. For more information about sources obtained on the web, consult the “Internet Sources” handout. Or see the MLA website at www.mla.org.