

MLA FORMAT FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATIONS

Laguna Library/Updated 9/4/09

When writing research papers, you will make use of someone else's facts, opinions, and/or quotations. Every time you do so, you must document the source of the material you are borrowing by listing its key identifying features such as author, title, place of publication, publisher, and copyright date. This documentation, called a “**bibliographic citation**,” must be done in a specified format. Our school uses the format created by the Modern Language Association (MLA).

This guide is designed to help you with the process of creating bibliographic citations in MLA format. Note that only 17 different examples of the most commonly used bibliographic citations are listed here. There are many more. To learn how to format other types of sources, consult *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition.

Identify which of the following categories matches your source and then follow that format. Make sure you use the same exact punctuation and spacing, including “hanging indents” when a citation takes up more than one line.

Example: If your source is a book with one author you would need to follow Format #1. Write the author's last name first, followed by a comma. Then write the author's first name, followed by a period. Using italics or underlines, write the title with correct capitalization, followed by a period. Next, write the city where the book was published. If it's a small town, include the initials of the state. This is followed by a colon. Next, write the name of the publishing company, followed by a comma. Next comes the copyright date, followed by a period. Since this example is for a real book with paper pages, write the word “Print” at the end. Complete every citation with a period.

Spelling must be perfect.

All rules of capitalization must be followed.

Put one space between each part (that is, after each punctuation mark).

Double space between each line, even when a citation takes up more than one line.

Dates are arranged international style (day of the month/month/year). Example: 2 Nov. 2009.

1. BOOK - ONE AUTHOR

Jones, Samuel. *On the Road*. Vero Beach, FL: Chelsea House, 2009. Print.

2. BOOK - TWO AUTHORS

Mason, Daniel, and Melanie Silva. *Life in the City*. New York : Rosen Publishing, 2009. Print.

3. BOOK-THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

Mason, Daniel, et. al., *Life in the City*. New York: Rosen Publishing, 2009. Print

4. BOOK - EDITOR INSTEAD OF AUTHOR

Witherspoon, James C., ed. *Anthology of Humorous Stories and Jokes*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ:

Lucent Books, 2001. Print.

5. BOOK - CORPORATE AUTHOR

American Library Association. *Intellectual Freedom Manual*. 7th ed. Chicago: ALA Press, 2006.

Print.

6. BOOK - NO AUTHOR OR EDITOR

Sharks: Silent Hunters of the Deep. New York: Reader's Digest, 2001. Print.

7. ARTICLE FROM A FAMILIAR ENCYCLOPEDIA

Snow, Vernon F. "Cook, James." *World Book Encyclopedia*. 2009. Print.

8. ARTICLE FROM AN UNFAMILIAR ENCYCLOPEDIA

"Geckos." *The International Wildlife Encyclopedia*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1989. Print.

9. MAGAZINE ARTICLE WITH AUTHOR GIVEN

Paik, Carol. "I'm Not Who You Think I Am" *Newsweek* 18 Feb. 2008: 20. Print.

10. MAGAZINE ARTICLE WITHOUT AUTHOR GIVEN

"The Checkers Solution." *Odyssey* Jan. 2008: 5. Print.

11. ARTICLES WITH AUTHOR FROM GALE CENGAGE DATABASE VIA ETC PORTAL

Tolson, Jay. "The Many Faces of Benjamin Franklin." *U.S. News and World Report* 23 June 2003: 34-38. *Biography Resource Center*. Web. 9 Sept. 2009.

Binns, Corey. "Medicating Rover." *Popular Science* Nov 2007: 36. Student Edition. Web. 27 Aug. 2009.

12. ARTICLE FROM THE INTERNET WITHOUT AUTHOR LISTED

"How to Use the Resource Guide." *IPL: Science Fair Project Resource Guide*. 2009. Regents of the University of Michigan, Web. 9 Oct. 2009.

13. eBooks (ELECTRONIC BOOKS)

Junker, Karan. *Gardening with Woodland Plants*. 2nd ed. Portland: Timberland, 2007. NetLibrary. Web. 5 June 2008.

14. PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Williams, Brian. Personal interview. 3 July 2009.

15. TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Farmer, Nancy. Telephone interview. 21 Jan. 2010.

16. E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

Obama, Barack. E-mail to the author. 2 Feb. 2010.

17. WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY

Perkins, Brian. "Victims Should Fight Back." *Criminal Justice*. Ed. David L. Bender and Bruno Leone. St. Paul, MN: Greenhaven Press, 2007. 35-39. Print.

18. VIDEOCASSETTE RECORDING

Confucius: Words of Wisdom. A&E Television Networks. New Video, 1996. Videocassette.

19. DVD RECORDING

Abraham Lincoln. History Channel. 2002. DVD.

How to Create Your "Works Cited" Page

You must always give credit to each source you chose to cite in your paper. This list of sources is called your "Works Cited." This list is put on a separate page following the conclusion of your paper. This is how to do it:

Center the words "Works Cited" at the top of the page.

Double space.

Arrange citations in alphabetical order according to the first word or name of each citation unless the first word is "a," "an," or "the." In that case, go by the second word.

Single space after each punctuation mark within citations.

Double space between each line.

When more than one line is required for a citation, use a hanging indent (that is, a half inch space at the beginning of the line) for all but the first line.

Below is a sample "works cited" page using bibliographic citations from the examples listed in this guide.

Works Cited

Abraham Lincoln. History Channel. 2002. DVD.

American Library Association. *Intellectual Freedom Manual*. 7th ed. Chicago: ALA Press, 2006. Print.

"The Checkers Solution." *Odyssey* Jan. 2008: 5. Print.

"Geckos." *The International Wildlife Encyclopedia*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1989. Print.

"How to Use the Resource Guide." *IPL: Science Fair Project Resource Guide*. 2009. Regents of the

University of Michigan, Web. 9 Oct. 2009.

Jones, Samuel. *On the Road*. Vero Beach, FL: Chelsea House, 2009. Print.

Mason, Daniel, and Melanie Silva. *Life in the City*. New York: Rosen Publishing, 2009. Print.

Obama, Barack. E-mail to the author. 2 Feb. 2010.

Paik, Carol. "I'm Not Who You Think I Am" *Newsweek* 18 Feb. 2008: 20. Print.

Sharks: Silent Hunters of the Deep. New York: Reader's Digest, 2001. Print.

Snow, Vernon F. "Cook, James." *World Book Encyclopedia*. 2009. Print.

Witherspoon, James C., ed. *Anthology of Humorous Stories and Jokes*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ:

Lucent Books, 2001. Print.