MLA Style Guide – Quick & Easy

Source: MLA Handbook for Writers and Research Papers, 7th Edition, 2009
For Further Assistance Contact Your Instructor or Librarian

Examples here are based on...

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

General Guidelines

- Your list of references should begin on a separate page, with the title "**Works Cited**".

- Arrange entries **alphabetically**, using the last name of the author. If no author is given, alphabetize by the title, eliminating any initial A, An, or The.

- Begin each entry at the left margin. Indent the following lines one-half inch from the left margin.

- **Double-space** within each entry, and between each entry.

- Follow carefully the punctuation, underlining, and capitalization in the examples.

- Shorten the name of the publishing company by eliminating articles (A, An, or The), business abbreviations (Co., Inc., Ltd.), and descriptive words (Books, House, Press). However, when citing a **University Press**, add the abbreviation "**UP**" (Ohio State UP). If the publisher's name is the name of one or more persons, cite the first surname only (Abrams).

In-Text Citation

Parenthetical references

- The list of Works Cited at the end of your paper tells your reader what resources you used to write your paper. **To avoid plagiarism** or taking credit for ideas that are not your own, you must also indicate in the text of your paper precisely what is borrowed from a source and where to locate that information in the source.

- The **in-text citation usually appears in parentheses** and corresponds directly to an entry in your list of Works Cited.

- The **author's last name and the page number** are usually enough to indicate the location in the source.

- If the author's name is used in the sentence, do not repeat it in the citation.

In-Text Examples

Author's name in text	Sellers had expressed that the market changed in the 17th century (91-92).
Author's name in reference	…Sellers view on economic growth is not widely embraced among Historians (Cassell 9).
Multiple authors of a work	The literature also indicates (Hamilton and Spruill 231) that modest improvements have been made to training programs.
Two locations	Sellers market and democracy theory does have merit (91-92, 261).
Two works cited	(Salzman 38; Sellers 198)
References to volumes and pages	(Crowell 4: 19-22)
Corporate authors	(Chrysler Group, 2009 Annual Report 36-39)
Work with no author	(*Time* 22)

Book with One Author

Author's last name, First name and Middle initial [if available]. *Italicize Title*. Publication Location: Publishing

Company, Year. Print.

Example (5.5.2):

Koenig, Gloria. *Iconic LA: Stories of LA's Most Memorable Buildings*. Glendale: Balcony, 2000. Print.

Book with Two Or Three Authors

First author's last name, First name and Middle initial [if available], Second author's First name and Last name,

and Third author's First name and Last name. *Italicize Title*. Publication Location: Publishing Company,

Year. Print.

Example (5.5.4):

Landau, Robert, and John Pashdag. *Outrageous L.A*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 1984. Print.

Book with More Than Three Authors

First author's last name, First name and Middle initial [if available], et al. *Italicize Title*. Publication Location:

Publishing Company, Year. Print.

Example (5.5.4):

Gebhard, David, et al. *A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco & Northern California*. Santa Barbara:

Peregrine, 1973. Print.

Book with Editor's & No Author

Editor's last name, First name and Middle initial [if available], ed. *Italicize Title*. Publication Location: Publishing

Company, Year. Print.

Example (5.3.5 & 5.5.4):

Weisser, Susan Ostrov, ed. *Women and Romance: A Reader.* New York: New York UP, 2001. Print.

Book with Author & Editor

Author's last name, First name and Middle initial [if available]. "Title of Work in Quotations." *Italicize Book*

Title. Ed. Editor's First name Middle initial [if available] and Last name. Publication Location: Publishing

Company, Year. Pages. Print.

Example (5.5.6):

Sheppard, Michael. "Assessment: From Reflectivity to Process Knowledge." *Handbook for Practice Learning in*

Social Work and Social Care: Knowledge and Theory. Ed. Joyce Lishman. London: Jessica Kingsley,

2007. 128-137. Print.

Book with Two Editor

Editor's last name, First name and Middle initial [if available], Editor's First name Last name, eds [editors]. *Title*

of Book. Publication Location: Publishing Company, Year. Print.

Example (5.5.14):

Townsend, Tony, and Richard Bates, eds. *Handbook of Teacher Education: Globalization, Standards and*

Professionalism in Times of Change. Dordrecht: Springer, 2007. Print.

Anthology (Essay, short story, poem, or other work that appears within a collection of literary pieces)

Author's last name, First name and Middle initial [if available]. "Title or Description of the Essay/Short

Ptory/Poem." *Italicize Title of Book*. Editor or Compiler (write Trans., Ed., or Comp.). Ed. or

Comp. First name Last name. Publication Location: Publishing Company, Year. Print.

Example (5.5.6):

Orwell, George. "Such, Such Were the Joys." *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the*

Classical Era to the Present. Ed. Philip Lopate. New York: Anchor-Doubleday, 1994. Print.

Reference Books

If the article or entry is signed, place the author's name first; if it is unsigned, give the title first. For well-known reference works, it is not necessary to include full publication information. Include only the title of the reference source, edition, and date of publication.

Encyclopedia

"Title of Article or Entry." Title of Reference Work. Edition. Year. Format.

Example (5.5.7):

"Los Angeles." The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropaedia. 15th ed. 1998. Print.

Dictionary – signed

Author's last name, First name and Middle initial. "Title of Article or Entry." Title of Reference Work. Editor's First name and Last name. Edition. Number of volumes in set. Publication Location: Publishing Company, Year. Format.

Example (5.5.7):

Turner, Thornton F. "Mission." A Dictionary of Architecture and Building. Ed. Russell Sturgis. 1st ed. 3 Vols. New York: Macmillan, 1902. Print.

Article from a newspaper

Author's last name, First name and Middle initial. "Title of Article." *Italicize Title of Newspaper* Day Month Year of publication, edition: page number(s). Format.

Example (5.4.5):

Ouroussoff, Nicolai. "Enduring Legacy: How the Spanish Missions Still Shape Modern California." *Los Angeles Times* 7 Sept. 1997, home ed.: B2+. Print.

Article from a popular magazine

Author's last name, First name and Middle initial. "Title of Article." *Italicize Title of Magazine* Day Month Year of publication: page numbers. Format.

Example (5.4.6):

Mezrich, Ben. "To Live and Die in L.A." Wired May 2003: 131-135. Print.

Article from a scholarly journal with continuous pagination

Author's last name, First name and Middle initial. "Title of Article." *Italicized Title of Journal*

volume.issue [if available] (year): page number(s). Format.

Example (5.4.2):

Faragher, John Mack. "Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California."

Western Historical Quarterly 32.2 (2001): 149-173. Print.

Article from an online full-text database

Author's last name, First name and Middle initial. "Title of Article." *Italicize Title of Journal*. Volume

number. Issue [when issue n. is available] (year): page range. *Italicize Name of Database*.

Format. Day Month Year [when accessed].

Example (5.6.4):

Kellogg, Craig. "Looks Count." *Interior Design.* 74.3 (2003): 208-213. *Academic Search Elite*. Web. 24

Dec. 2009.

Webpage

Name of Author, Compiler, Director, Editor etc. of the work. "Title of the work." *URL title*. Publisher or

sponsor of the site (if not available use N.p.), Date of publication (day, month, and year, as

available: if nothing is available, use n.d.). Format. Date of access (day, month and year).
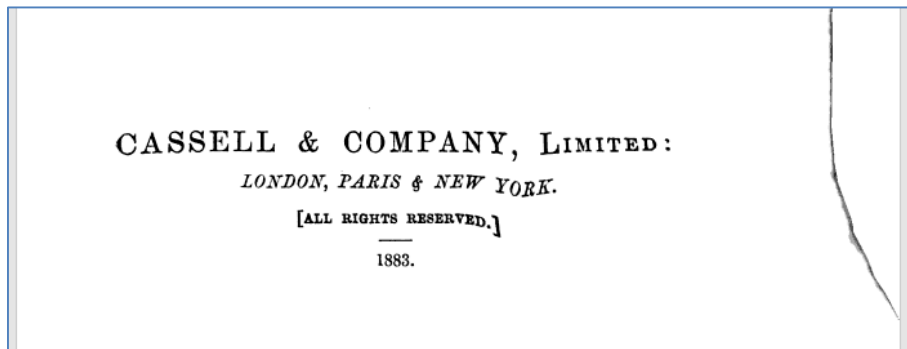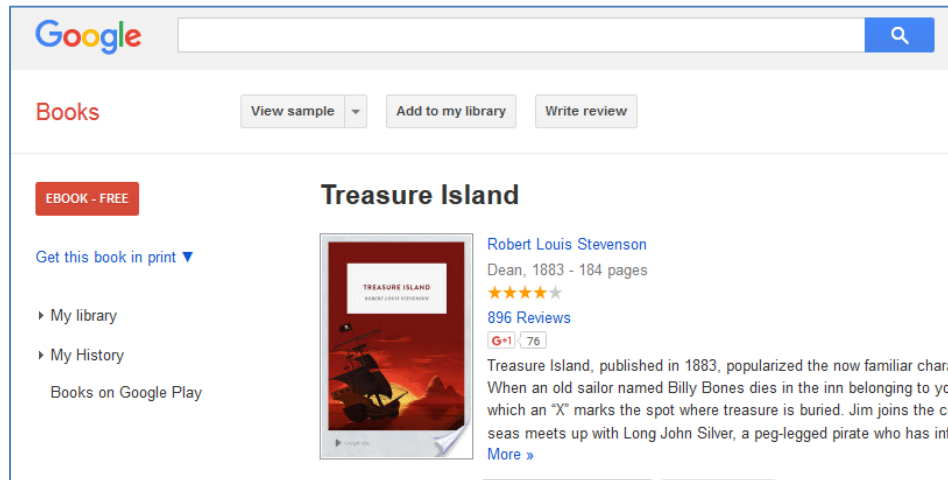
Example (5.6.2):

Matthews, Kevin. "W. E. Oliver House." *Greatbuildings.com*. Architecture Week Great Buildings

Collection, 2010. Web. 1 Feb. 2010.

Online Book

Author's Last Name, First Name Middle Initial. *Italicize Title of Work*. Edition [If Applicable].

Publication of Publication: Publisher, Year. *Online Library or Retrieved Source*. Web. Date of

access.

Example (5.6.2):

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*. London: Cassell & Company, 1883. *Google Book*. Web. 1

Sept. 2015.

eBook

Author's Last Name, First Name Middle Initial. *Italicize Title of Work*. Edition. Place of Publication:

Publisher, Year. *Name of Database*. Web. Date of access.

Author   Heffron, Sean.
Title   **The Skinny on Your First Year in College [electronic resource]**
Published   Skinny On (tm), The [Imprint] ; Westport : Rand Media Co, April
             2011.

Permanent URL for this record: http://suncat.csun.edu/record=b3116389
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Example (5.6.2):

Heffron, Sean. *The Skinny on Your First in College*. Westport: Rand Media, 2011. *eBook Academic*

Collection (EBSCOhost). Web. 1 Sept. 2015.