Academic writing standards require you to credit all sources that you use to write a paper, report, or study. The Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style provides a guideline for properly crediting your sources by requiring notes in the text of your work that point the reader to an alphabetical list of your sources, called a “Works Cited” list. Properly citing your sources of information allows a reader to locate the original sources of information you used in your writing and will also help you avoid the serious offense of plagiarism.

New! ► For more detailed information about the 2009 update for MLA documentation style, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., located in the Reference section (Ref 808.027 ML699m), Diana Hacker’s MLA document: [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0011.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0011.html), or the Purdue University online writing lab website: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/).

**IN-TEXT CITATIONS**

Parenthetical documentation directs the reader to the specific sources of information that you are referencing in the body of your paper. These listings must direct the reader to a particular work listed on your “Works Cited” page. In most cases the author’s last name and a specific page number, in parentheses, are enough to identify the source you used and its location within that source. If the item has a corporate author, treat the corporate entity as the author.

Example: During the 1980s global inflation remained steady at around 15 percent (Rogoff 49).

If you are already referring to the author’s name in the text of your paper, then you need only cite the specific page number in parentheses.

Example: According to Rogoff, “global inflation averaged 15 percent in the 1980s” (49).

**LIST OF WORKS CITED**

The basic components of an MLA citation are:

**Book**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Chapter or Essay if Applicable.” *Title of Book*. Publication Location: Publisher, Year. Print.

**Article, print version**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Periodical* vol. #, Iss. # (Year or date of publication): page number(s). Print.

**Article, electronic version**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Periodical* vol. #, Iss. # (Year or date of publication): page number(s). *Database Name*. Web. Date of access.

**Internet citation**

Author’s Last name, First name. “Title of Web Page.” *Web Site Title* (if distinct from title of web page). Publisher or sponsor of the site. Date of posting. Web. Date of access.

New! ► Each citation must declare the format, such as Print, Web, DVD, Videocassette, Television, etc.

New! ► Titles of books and journals are now italicized instead of underlined.
PRINT / VIDEO RESOURCE EXAMPLES

Book with one author

Book with two or three authors

*** Note: if there are four or more authors, list the first author that appears on the title page/citation, followed by “et al.” or you may give all names in full, in the order in which they appear on the title page.

Essay in an anthology

Encyclopedia article

Magazine article

Newspaper article

Journal article.

Government publication

Television or radio program

Motion picture (Video cassette)

Motion picture (DVD)
**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE EXAMPLES**

**New! ►** If a date is not available for an electronic format, write n.d. for no date; if a publisher is not named on a Web site, write n.p. for no publisher; if a page number is not given for online journal or database articles, write n.pag. for no pagination.

**New! ►** URLs are not required. However, you are welcome to provide the URL if the citation information may not help the reader easily find the source on their own. Your instructor may also require you to provide URLs.

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**Entire Web site, unknown author.**


**Online government publication**


**Email**


**Online posting (discussion group, listserv, etc.)**


**Weblog (“blog”) entry**


**Wiki entry**

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Works Cited


