

Earlham College Writing Center:

MLA Guide

This document contains instructions and examples for general formatting, such as:

- General format
- First page format
- In-text citations
- References page

General Format

- Typically, papers written in MLA format are double-spaced.
- Use fonts like Times New Roman or Arial in size 12 (unless the professor specifies which font they prefer, there is more freedom in the font choice).
- Indent the first line of each paragraph by clicking tab on your keyboard.
- Insert your last name and page numbers in top right corner of each page (as seen at the top of this page).
- Title of books should be written in italics and articles in quotation marks.

Title Page

- Unless specified by the professor, you will not be required to have a title page.
- On the first page on the left side corner, list your name, instructor's name, the course, and date.
- The title of the paper should be centered on the first line of the essay.

Example:

LastName 1

FirstName LastName

Instructor Name

Course

Due Date

Title of Your Essay

Start the first paragraph here. It should [introduce](#) your reader to the subject you are

In-text Citations

Typically, MLA format for in-text citations include the author's last name and page number (corresponding to the quote or paraphrased quote provided in the text).

Examples:

For citing works with one or two authors, list the authors last names as it appears in the text along with the page numbers.

→ (Butler 17) or (Butler and Marcus 17).

When citing works with three or more authors, list only the first author's last name and use et al. to replace the other authors.

→ (Boyd et al. 48).

If the author of a work is unknown, use a shortened version of the works title instead. For articles, place the title of the works in quotation marks, for plays, books, and websites italicize the title. A way to shorten the title is to remove the articles and keep the important words.

→ "The Impact of Global Warming in North America" can be shortened to ("Impact of Global Warming").

Works Cited Page

General Rules

- Your bibliography should be titled works cited, this title should be bolded and centered at the top of the page. The works cited page should be on a separate page at the end of your paper.
- The citations should be listed alphabetically using the first author's last name.
- Indent the second line of each entry. This is called a hanging indent and to do this in Microsoft word, highlight the text, select paragraph and under indentation, select the special hanging indent.

Books:

Basic format for one author

Last Name, First Name Middle initial. *Title*. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

Basic format for multiple authors

Last Name, First Name Middle initial and Last name2 Middle initial2, First name2. *Title*. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

Examples

Pals, Daniel L. *Nine Theories of Religion*. Oxford University Press, New York, 2015.

Brown, Ruth N, and Kwakye, Chamara J. *Wish to Live: The Hip Hop Feminism Pedagogy Reader*. New York, Peter Lang. 2012.

Book Chapter:

Basic format

Last name, First name Middle initial. "Title of Chapter." Title of Book, edited by Editor's First and Last Name(s), Publisher, City, Year, Page range.

Example

Kitwana, Bakari. "The Challenge of Rap Music from Cultural Movement to Political Power." *That's the Joint: Hip-Hop Studies Reader*. Edited by Murray Forman and Mark Anthony Neal. Second Edition. Routledge, New York, 2012. pp. 100 – 140.

Journal Articles:

Basic format

Last name, First name Middle initial. "Title." *Name of journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, pages.

Example

Duvall, John N. "The Super Marketplace of Images: Television as Unmediated Mediation in DeLillo's *White Noise*." *Arizona Quarterly*, vol. 50, no. 3, 1994, pp. 127-53.

Website (known author):

When citing websites, make sure to use credible websites like vox media, the New York Times, Washington Post, Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, The Guardian, and various databases where you can access journal articles (Pubmed, JSTOR, ResearchGate, Google Scholar).

Basic format

Last name, First name Middle initial. "Title of page/Article." *Website name*, date of publication/date last updated, URL link.

Example

Bassil, Ryan. "God Complex: How Religion Became the Bedrock of Modern Rap." *The Guardian*, 14 April 2017, www.theguardian.com/music/2017/apr/14/rap-religion-stormzy-kendrick-lamar-humble.

In the cases of an unknown author, begin the citation the title of the website in its place.

Multimodal Sources:

Songs

Song citations may differ depending on where you accessed the song from and whether information on the producer, record label and album name is available. If that information is not available, then you may leave it out.

Basic format

Artist name. "Song title." *Album title*, producer/recording studio, date. *Spotify*, URL/link.

Examples

Dave. "In The Fire." *We're All Alone in This Together*. Neighbourhood, 23 July 2021. *Spotify*, <https://open.spotify.com/track/22agj1ppHejR41cUyf7k6v?si=a2e6422f9e6a40eb>.

Movies

Basic format

Movie title. Director first and last name(s), performances by (first and last names of the lead actors/actresses). Studio name, year.

Examples

Brown Sugar. Directed by Rick Famuyiwa, performances by Taye Diggs, Sanaa Lathan, Queen Latifah and Mos Def. 20th Century Studios, 2002.

Video

Basic format

Last name, First name. "Title." *Name of website*, uploaded by, date, URL link.

Examples

Cardi B. "Be Careful." *YouTube*, uploaded by Cardi B, 21 May 2018,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zSRkr1nQNw>.

| Elements | Works Cited Page Example |
|-------------------------------|---|
| | Wise 6 |
| | Works Cited |
| Webpage from a Website | Boise State University Writing Center. "Welcome to the Writing Center." <i>Boise State University</i> . https://www.boisestate.edu/writingcenter/ . Accessed 9 Sep. 2022. |
| Journal Article | Hollingdale, Jack et al. "Impact of COVID-19 for people living and working with ADHD: A brief review of the literature." <i>AIMS Public Health</i> , vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 581–597. DOI: 10.3934/publichealth.2021047 |
| Work from a Collection | Kinsella, Sophie. "Seven." <i>The Party Crasher</i> , edited by Kara Cesare et. al., The Dial Press, 2021, pp. 95-119. |
| Book | Jimenez, Jesus. <i>Latin Culture in the United States</i> . Harper Collins, 2003. |
| Newspaper Article | Mitchell, Jessi. "New public health laboratory breaks ground in Harlem." <i>CBS NEWS YORK</i> , 06 July 2022, https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/harlem-public-health-laboratory/ |
| YouTube Video | Smith, Clint. "Marsha P. Johnson and the Stonewall Rebellion." <i>YouTube</i> , uploaded by CrashCourse, 29 June 2022, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftcvaJCKVjs |
| Podcast | "The Mysterious Disappearance of Brittaneé Drexel." <i>Morbid</i> from Amazon Music, hosted by Alaina Urquhart and Ashleigh Kelley, episode 203, 23 January 2021. music.amazon.com/podcasts/30381209-4d12-4c82-ba16-5bde361156c9/episodes/40756d04-f27a-4723-b036-8a3d3083f508/morbidepisode203themysteriousdisappearanceofbrittaneedrexel |