

**The Nesbitt-Johnston Writing Center
Hamilton College
Clinton, NY 13323**

MLA DOCUMENTATION

For ideas and information used from other sources, you must provide both in-text citations and a Works Cited. See the Writing Center's "Using Sources" for a discussion of **when** to cite sources.

For complete information on Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style, consult *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, seventh edition or "Useful Links" at the Hamilton College Writing Center Web site: www.hamilton.edu/writing/citations.html

In-text Citations

Following the cited material in your text, include a parenthetical reference with the author name and page number (Moss 5). You may delete the author name if you have included it in the introduction to the cited material: e.g., As Moss explains, "..."(5). If the author is unknown, use the initial key words from the title ("Melting Sea Ice"). Omit the page number in the case of lacking page numbers, such as Web sources. The period follow the citation.

Works Cited: Print Sources

The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, seventh edition* (2009) includes two major changes in guidelines for the Works Cited section:

- 1) *Italics* are used everywhere in place of underlining (book titles, etc.)
- 2) Every Works Cited entry must include **the medium of publication**, e.g., Print, Web, Radio, Film, Television, CD, Videocassette, DVD, Performance, Lecture, and PDF file.

The standard form for a Works Cited entry for a print book:

1. Author. 2. Title. 3. City of publication. 4. Publisher, 5. Date of publication. 6. Medium. Each item is followed by a period except for the sponsor/publisher, which is followed by a comma.

Book by one author (print)

Lamott, Anne. *Bird By Bird*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994. Print.

Book by multiple authors (print)

Baker, Nancy and Brian Flynn. *Veil of Fear: The Nuclear Threat*. Boston: Basic, 2003. Print.

Article in a scholarly journal (print)

Baca, Damian. "The Chicano Codex." *College English* 71.6 (2009): 564-583. Print.
(After the journal title, add the volume number, issue number, date of publication, and page numbers. End with Print.)

Entire anthology (print)

Barnet, Sylvan and Hugo Bedau, Eds. *Current Issues and Enduring Questions*. Boston: Bedford Books, 1993. Print.

Selection from an anthology (print)

Kysar, Leila. "A Logger's Lament." *Current Issues and Enduring Questions*. Ed. Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau. Boston: Bedford Books, 1993. 392-394. Print.

If the examples above do not exactly fit your source, use common sense to adapt the available information to the suggested form.

Works Cited: Online Sources

Because it is likely that readers can locate online sources by entering identifying information in a search engine or a database, MLA guidelines **do not require a URL** in the Works Cited for online sources.

The form for a short work from a Web site:

1. Author, if any (last name first).
2. Title of short work (in quotation marks).
3. Title of Web site (italicized).
4. Sponsor/publisher of Web site (“N.p.” if none);
5. Date of most recent update (“n.d.” if none).
6. Medium.
7. Date you accessed the work.

A **period** follows each item except for the sponsor/publisher, which is followed by a comma.

You may not find all of the above information; use your good judgment and adapt available information to the form.

Short work from a Web site

Case, Will. “The Candidates’ Views.” *CNN.com*. CNN, 3 July 2008. Web. 10 Oct. 2009.

Entire Web site

Peterson, Susan Lynn. *The Life of Martin Luther*. Susan Lynn Peterson, 2005. Web. 24 Jan. 2009.

Article from an online reference work

“Acid Rain.” *Britannica*. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2008. Web. 23 Nov. 2009.

Article from an online database

Wallace, Maurice. “Richard Wright’s Black Medusa.” *Journal of African American History* 88.1 (2003): 71+. *Expanded Academic ASAP*. Web. 28 July 2009.

Article in an online scholarly journal

Mason, John Edwin. “‘Mannenberg’: Notes on the Making of an Icon and Anthem.” *African Studies Quarterly* 9.4 (2007): n. pag. Web. 23 Sept. 2008.

(For an article from an online journal or database: After the title, add the volume number, issue number, date of publication, and page numbers, if available, or the abbreviation “n. pag.” (not paginated). End with Web and date of access.)

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The examples of an entire Web site, an article from an online database, and an article from an online journal are taken from pages 548 and 553 in *The Bedford Handbook*, 8th ed.

Works Cited

Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *The Bedford Handbook*, 8th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2010. Print.

The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.