

MLA Style Footnotes & Bibliography

What is a Reference Citation?

All research is based on research preceding it, and writers are required to reference, or document, the original sources of information used. **Any directly quoted or paraphrased ideas, words or facts taken from another must be referenced.** Failure to credit the work of others is plagiarism, or literary theft.

What is MLA Style Reference Citation?

The Modern Language Association's *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* provides detailed information on referencing authors and their works. It is a widely accepted style in the humanities disciplines. The *MLA Handbook* provides instructions for using both an [in-text](#) and [note](#) oriented referencing format. Consult your instructor on their preference.

Using This Guide

In-text and note references will be described. Following these descriptions, sample references of each type will be provided. Some of the examples are taken directly from the *MLA Handbook*. Detailed information on direct quotations, use of quotation marks, abbreviations, or formatting issues such as spacing and margins within the paper itself is not provided (spacing and margin information is provided as it relates to references). Consult the *MLA Handbook* on these topics.

In-Text References

The *MLA Handbook* advocates in-text referencing. The two main features of in-text referencing are [parenthetical references](#) and the [Works Cited page](#). Instead of the traditional endnotes or footnotes, the writer uses references enclosed in parentheses within the text. These references refer to a list of works arranged alphabetically at the end of the paper. Notes, described in the [Endnotes and Footnotes](#) section below, can still be used with in-text references for comments and explanations that cannot be accommodated in the main text of the paper.

Provide only the information necessary to clearly and accurately identify the source of information. Do not allow references to interrupt the flow of the text. Place them at the end of the phrase, clause, sentence, or paragraph being referenced. Follow the reference with the appropriate punctuation placed outside the parentheses. References should be placed outside quotation marks. If, however, the reference is set off from the text, as with a long block quote, type a space and place the reference after the punctuation. Compile the Works Cited page before the actual writing of the paper, so that you will know what to reference.

Note: Parentheses are not required when referencing an entire source. Instead, include the name of the author(s) or the title in the body of the text. For example: "Mouly gives a comprehensive description of...", or "Winger and Ziske argue that...", or "*Exposed* provides an intriguing..."

Rules and Examples of Parenthetical Reference to Specific Parts of a Work

The following rules and examples pertain to situations in which you have to reference a specific part of a work. Note: basic rules carry over from one referencing situation to another, even if no specific sample is provided below. For example, you reference multiple authors with more than one work cited just like a single author with multiple works cited. Consult the latest edition of the MLA Handbook if you are unsure of how to reference something.

1a. Single Author- Name in Reference: Enclose the name and page number in parentheses and insert it in the text. For example:

Research is best conceived as a process of arriving at dependable solutions to problems through systematic retrieval and interpretation of data (Mouly 12).

(Mouly 12) indicates that the information in the sentence was found on page 12 of Mouly's work.

Complete information about this source is provided on the Works Cited list under the author's name.

Note: Use a first initial to distinguish between authors with the same last name. For example: (J. Smith) or (L. Smith 142).

1b. Single Author- Name in Text: Enclose only the page number. For example:

As Mouly states, research is a process of arriving at dependable solutions to problems (12).

2. Single Author- Multiple Works Cited: When citing multiple works by an author, include a short version of the title. Place a comma after the author's name if it is included in the reference. For example:

Research is best conceived as a process of arriving at dependable solutions to problems through systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data (Mouly, Educational 12).

or

Mouly states that, research is best conceived as a process of arriving at dependable solutions to problems through systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data (Educational 12).

3. Multiple Authors: For up to three authors, include them all. If more than three, use "et al." after the first author's name. For Example:

Chen, Johnson and Hickman emphatically support this interpretation (23).

or

This interpretation has strong detractors, too. (Parnall et al. 98-100).

4. Corporate authors: Same rules as individual authors. For example:

A 1995 University of Toledo report supports this conclusion (14).

or

A report completed in 1995 supports this conclusion (University of Toledo 14).

5. Works Referenced by Title: Short titles are completely enclosed in parentheses. Long titles are shortened beginning with the word by which they are alphabetized, excluding initial articles (A, An, The). Underline or italicized book titles, and enclose article titles in quotation marks. Follow the title with a page number when applicable. For example:

Serious disagreements surround the results (Guidelines). [Full title: Guidelines for TV Violence]

or

The current level of television violence disturbs many parents ("Television Violence" 42).

6a Multivolume Work- Entire Volume: Include a comma after the authors name, write "vol." followed by the volume number. For example:

Profound changes shook the very foundation of their belief system (Winger, vol. 6).

6b. Multivolume Work- Specific Page(s): Include the volume number, add a colon and then the page number(s). For example:

The entire situation was out of control between 1960 and 1962 (Hulka 6: 111-113)

or

Hulka writes that the entire situation was out of control between 1960 and 1962 (6: 111-113).

7a. Literary Works- Novels and Plays: Because these works often appear in different editions, provide additional location information after the page number, such as chapter or act. Place a semi-colon after the page number and abbreviate the additional location, such as ch. (chapter) or sec. (section). Separate multiple divisions with a comma. For example:

Sastre's version has William Tell's sons urging him to shoot (315; sc. 6).

or

In *Crime and Punishment*, Raskolnikov is the victim of contradictory emotions (Dostoevsky 1; pt. 1, ch. 1).

7b. Literary Works- Poems and Classic Verse Plays: Omit page numbers and refer directly to divisions (acts, scenes, cantos, etc.) and lines. Separate the various numbers with periods, e.g., *Iliad* 9.19 refers to book 9, line 19. Precede numbers with the title if it is not already included in the text. If using line numbers only, include the word "line" or "lines" in the first reference and use only the number thereafter. Note: use Arabic numerals unless instructed otherwise. For example:

In *Hamlet*, the prince declares confidently, "The play's the thing / Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King" (2.2.633-34).

or

The Dean and Chapter manuscript version of *Octavian* ends more formally: "And thus endis Octouean / That in his tym was a doghety man..." (Lines 1629-30).

Note: See chapter six of the Handbook for general literary abbreviations, and those for specific famous literary works and title of the books of the Bible.

8. Indirect Sources: If an indirect, i.e., second hand, source is the only one available, precede it with "qtd. in". You may document the original source in a note. For example:

He admitted freely that Burke was the better man (qtd. in Oxenberger 46).

9. Multiple Works in One Reference: Refer to each work as before and use a semi-colon to separate them. For example:

Some scholars take exception to this view (Mouly 23; Winger 149-150; Guidelines 29).

Creating a Works Cited Page

Entries, called citations, usually have three significant divisions- author's name in reverse order, title and publication information, each followed by a period. For citations longer than one line, indent subsequent lines five spaces (1/2 inch). Italicize or underline titles. For example:

Mouly, George J. *Educational Research: The Art and Science of Investigation*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1978.

This book entry states that the author's name is George J. Mouly and that its title is Educational Research: The Art and Science of Investigation. The rest of the information refers to the place of publication which is Boston, the publisher, which is Allyn and Bacon, and the year of publication, 1978.

Place the list of citations at the end of the paper on their own page, which is numbered sequentially with the rest of the paper. Place the page number one-half inch from the top, flush with the right margin. Leave one inch margins. Label the page, "Works Cited", indicating that what follows was cited within the text. Center the heading one inch from the top of the page. Begin entries two spaces below the heading flush with the left margin. Double space within and between entries. Use as many pages as necessary to continue the list.

Arrange the list alphabetically by the author's last name or the first important word in title. Ignore the articles "A", "An", and "The" when they begin a title. Use the letter-by-letter alphabetizing system, which calls for the following:

Alphabetize on the letters of the last name, ignoring spaces and punctuation. For example:

Descartes, Rene
De Sica, Vittorio

Consider the first name or initial when two or more last names are identical. For example:

Morris, Robert
Morris, William

When two or more co-authored citations begin with the same last names, alphabetize on the last name of the second author listed. For example:

Winger, John, and Albert Hulka
Winger, John, and Ray Ziske

List multiple works by one author alphabetically by title, preceded by three dashes, after giving the author's name in the first citation. This rule does not apply when multiple authors are involved. For example:

Winger, John. The New Model Army. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1968.

---. Our Army at War. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1973.

Sample Works Cited Page

Works Cited

Frye, Northrop. Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1957

---. Language and Meaning in Criticism. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1971.

"Six Elements of Modern Literary Criticism." PMLA 109 (1994): 34-45.

Wallace, Ronald, and Sheryl Pratt-Wallace. A History of Modern Criticism: 1750-1970. New Haven: Yale UP, 1992.

Notes

Notes vs. In-Text References

Reference notes rather than parenthetical references may be required. Note numbers replace the parenthetical reference. Notes begin with the number 1 and continue sequentially throughout the paper. Unlike citations, which include the page numbers for the entire work, notes identify the specific page(s) referred to. When using notes, you may not have to include a separate list of works cited. Consult your instructor on this matter.

Placing Notes In the Text

Notes should not interrupt the flow of the text. Place them in the text following punctuation marks, except for dashes. The numbers inserted in the text should be Arabic in superscript (placed slightly above the text) to the right. For example: "...argues for the program. ¹"

Note Formats

Notes include: author's name, in regular order followed by a comma; title, publication data, in parentheses; and page information. A period appears only at the end. Again, page references are specific to the information referenced not the entire work. The first note for a particular work lists all this information. Subsequent notes for that work require only abbreviated information, such as "²Frye 34-35". There are two types of notes: Endnotes and Footnotes.

Endnotes

Endnotes, the preferred format, appear at the end of the text on their own page, which is numbered sequentially with the other pages. Margins, spacing and numbering are the same as for a Works Cited page described above. Use the heading "Notes". Entries should begin five spaces (1/2 inch) from the left margin. Add the superscript number, a space, and then the reference. If the reference goes beyond one line, begin subsequent line(s) at the left margin. For example:

¹Deborah Tannen, *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation* (New York: Morrow, 1990) 52.

Sample Endotes Page

Notes

¹Northrop Frye, *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1957) 76.

² Frye, 37-38.

³ "Six Elements of Modern Literary Criticism," *PMLA* 109 (1994): 34.

⁴ Ronald Wallace and Sheryl Pratt-Wallace, *A History of Modern Criticism: 1750-1970* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1992) 187-188.

Footnotes

Footnotes appear at the bottom, or foot, of the page. They begin two double spaces below the text. Footnotes are single spaced, but you must double space between them. If a note continues on the next page, add a solid line across that page two spaces below the text and continue the note two spaces below the line. Place notes for the new page two spaces under the continued note.

Using Notes with In-Text References

Two types of notes can be used with in-text references. Content notes provide an comments, explanations of information not appropriate in the text. Do not include them unless they are essential to clarify or explain what you have written. Bibliographic notes contain several sources or comments on sources included on the Works Cited page. For example:

Sample Passage:

The ancient Greeks deplored hubris, or excessive self pride. Oedipus clearly shows hubris by fleeing Corinth in an attempt to avert the oracle's terrible revelation of his fate.¹

Content Note:

¹ Warnings about hubris can also be readily found in the works of prominent Greek philosophers.

Bibliographic Notes

¹ For a full description of Greek attitudes toward hubris, see Thomas 48-56; Jenkins 35; and especially Papadakis 56-70.

Sample Citations and Notes

Below are sample entries for most common information formats. Each has a sample reference citation, (C), and a reference note, (N). If you come across an information format not covered below, consult the MLA Handbook. Note: Remember to double space as required when preparing your citations or notes.

Books

Single Author

C: Marcuse, Sibyl. *A Survey of Musical Instruments*. New York: Harper, 1975.

N: ¹ Sibyl Marcuse, *A Survey of Musical Instruments* (New York: Harper, 1975) 46.

Note: If the person(s) named edited, compiled or translated a work, as with an anthology or compilation do the following. For citations, place a comma after the name, followed by the appropriate abbreviation (ed., comp., trans.) and a period, e.g. "Wu, Sam, ed." For notes, place a comma after the name and abbreviation, e.g., "Sam Wu, ed.,".

Single Author- Two or More Books

C: Frye, Northrop. *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1957.

---, ed. *Design For Learning: Reports Submitted to the Joint Committee of the Toronto Board of Education and the University of Toronto*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1962.

N: ¹ Northrop Frye, *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays* (Princeton UP, 1957) 46-47.

² Frye 37-38.

³ Frye, *Design* 129.

Two or More Authors

C: Smith, William, and John Braden. *Reading Poetry*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1989.

N: ¹ William Smith and John Braden, *Reading Poetry* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1989) 476.

Note: For more than three authors, you may use only the first name followed by et al. For example: "Gadbois, Guy, et al." For citations or "Guy Gadbois, et al.," for notes.

Corporate Author

C: National Research Council. *China and Global Change*. Washington: Natl. Acad., 1992.

N: ¹ National Research Council, *China and Global Change* (Washington: Natl. Acad., 1992) 56.

Anonymous

C: *A Guide to Our Federal Lands*. Washington: Natl. Geographic Soc., 1984.

N: ¹ *A Guide to Our Federal Lands* (Washington: Natl. Geographic Soc., 1984) 123-124.

Specific Works in Anthology or Compilation

C: Achebe, Chinua. "The Madman." *Looking for a Rain God: An Anthology of Contemporary African Short Stories*. Ed. Nadezda Obradovic. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990. 1-18.

N: ³ Chinua Achebe, "The Madman," *Looking for a Rain God: An Anthology of Contemporary African Short Stories*, ed. Nadezda Obradovic (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990) 13.

Note: Treat references to an entire anthology like a book with an editor or compiler as described under the Author instructions above.

Multivolume Works

C: Lauter, Paul, et al., eds. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. Vol. 1. Lexington: Heath, 1994.

N: ³ Paul Lauter et al., eds., *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, vol. 1 (Lexington: Heath, 1994) 333-335.

Note: If the volumes are published over a period of years, provide the inclusive dates, e.g., "1978-1982" or "1985 -" if not complete. When using two or more volumes, give the total number of volumes, e.g., "7 Vols.." for citations and for notes.

Article in a Reference Book

C: "Venezuela." *Encyclopedia Americana*. 1993 ed.

N: ¹⁶ Joseph Dawson, "Scottish Clans," *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* (15th ed., 1987) 567.

Note: If citing a less well known reference book, give full publication information as with a book.

Book in a Series

C: Stewart, Joan Hinde. *Collette*. Twayne's World Authors Ser. 679. Boston: Twayne, 1983.

N: ⁸ Joan Hinde Stewart, *Collette*, Twayne's World Authors Ser. 679 (Boston: Twayne, 1983) 44-45.

Introduction, Preface, Foreword or Afterword

C: Sayers, Dorothy. Introduction. *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, the Florentine*. By Dante Alighieri. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1949. iii-x.

N: ²² Dorothy Sayers, introduction, *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, the Florentine* by Dante Alighieri (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1949) iv.

Translation

C: Giroud, Françoise. *Marie Curie: A Life*. Trans. Lydia Davis. New York: Holmes, 1986.

N: ¹⁰ Françoise Giroud, *Marie Curie: A Life*, trans. Lydia Davis (New York: Holmes, 1986) 2.

Subsequent Editions

C: Feuer, Jane. *The Hollywood Musical*. 2nd ed. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1993.

N: ¹ Jane Feuer, *The Hollywood Musical*, 2nd ed. (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1993) 42.

Note: Subsequent editions may also be identified as revised, abridged or by year. Use the following abbreviations respectively: "Rev. ed.", "Abr. ed." (all lower case for notes) or "1997 ed."

Periodicals

With periodicals, it is important to distinguish between the article title and the periodical's title. Put article titles in quotation marks and underline periodical titles.

Scholarly Journal Article

C: Fleissner, Robert F. "Eliot's Sweeney Among the Nightingales." *Explicator* 54 (1995): 30-31 .

N: ¹³ Robert F. Fleisner, "Eliot's Sweeney Among the Nightingales," *Explicator* 54 (1995): 31.

Note: Omit introductory "A", "An", and "The" in the journal title. Many scholarly journals page continuously from the first issue to the last, and it is not necessary to add issue numbers, months or seasons in the citation. If a journal does page each issue separately, include the issue number after the volume number (which corresponds to the year of publication) preceded by a period. For example: "14.2" means volume 14 issue number 2. Some journals only provides an issue number. In these cases treat it like a volume number.

Scholarly Article Reprinted in an Anthology or Compilation

Use the abbreviation "Rpt." to indicate a reprinting.

C: Frye, Northrop. "Literary and Linguistic Scholarship in a Postliterate Age." *PMLA* 99 (1984): 990-995. Rpt. in *Myth and Metaphor: Selected Essays, 1974-88*, Ed. Robert D. Denham. Charlottesville: UP of Virginia, 1990. 18-27.

N: ¹⁹ Northrop Frye, "Literary and Linguistic Scholarship in a Postliterate Age," *PMLA* 99 (1984): 990-995, rpt. in *Myth and Metaphor: Selected Essays, 1974-88*, ed. Robert D. Denham (Charlottesville: UP of Virginia, 1990) 18-20.

Magazine Article

C: DePaulo, Lisa. "Castles for Kids." *House Beautiful* 14 Apr. 1996: 80-83.

N: ² Lisa DePaulo, "Castles for Kids," *House Beautiful* 14 Apr. 1996: 80.

Note: In citing a magazine published on a monthly basis, simply give the month and year. Be sure to use appropriate month abbreviations. For example: "Aug. 1997". If an article does not appear on consecutive pages, use only the first page number .with a plus directly after it, e.g., "23+"

Newspaper Article

C: Feder, Barnaby J. "For Job Seekers." *New York Times* 30 Dec. 1993, natl. ed. : C1-2.

N: ⁶ Barnaby J. Feder, "For Job Seekers," *New York Times* 30 Dec. 1993, natl. ed. : C2.

Note: Always indicate a specific edition if more than one exists for a paper. If there is only one edition follow the year with a colon and the page numbers, as in "22 Mar. 1997: 4." If a multipage article is not numbered consecutively, use only the first page number and add a plus, e.g., "C3+."

Editorial

C: Campbell, Cole C. "Living up to a Legacy - And an Obligation." Editorial. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* 12 Jan. 1997: 2.

N: ²² Cole C. Campbell, "Living up to a Legacy - And an Obligation," editorial. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* 12 Jan. 1997: 2

Review

Use the abbreviation, "Rev. of" when referencing reviews.

C: Crutchfield, Will. "Pure Italian." Rev. of *Verdi: A Biography*, by Mary Phillips. *New Yorker* 31 Jan. 1994: 76-82.

N: ¹⁷ Will Crutchfield, "Pure Italian," rev. of *Verdi: A Biography*, by Mary Phillips, *New Yorker* 31 Jan. 1994: 76

Computer Networks

When using an electronic source from a network, choose one that states the title, author/editor and date of the source. This is important since not all network sources are authoritative. It is also important to provide the date you accessed the site, which will be the second date you provide, because some sites are continuously updated. Add the electronic address at the end of your reference.

Electronic Journals, Newsletters and Conferences

C: Readings, Bill. "So You Say You Want a Revolution." *Surfaces* 1.11 (Dec. 1991): 19 pp. Online. Internet. 2 Feb. 1992. Available: <http://www.uoregon.edu/complit/>.

N: ² Bill Readings, "So You Say You Want a Revolution," *Surfaces* 1.11 (Dec. 1991): 6, online, Internet, 2 Feb. 1992. Available: <http://www.uoregon.edu/complit/>.

Electronic Text

C: Hardy, Thomas. *Far from the Madding Crowd*. Ed. Ronald Blyth. Hammondsworth: Penguin, 1978, Online. Oxford Text Archive. Internet. 24 Jan. 1994. Available FTP: [black.ox.uk in/ota](http://black.ox.uk/in/ota)

N: ¹¹ Thomas Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, ed. Ronald Blyth (Hammondsworth: Penguin, 1978), online, Oxford Text Archive, Internet, 24 Jan. 1994. Available FTP: [black.ox.uk in/ota](http://black.ox.uk/in/ota)

Citing other Sources

Film or Video

C: *It's a Wonderful Life*. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946.

N: ⁹ *It's a Wonderful Life*, dir. Frank Capra, perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946.

Note: To cite a particular individual, begin the reference with that person's name. For example: "Mifune, Toshiro, perf. Roshomon. Dir. ..." To refer a video recording, begin as with a movie, but exclude the original distributor, include the original release date, identify the type of video recording

(videocassette or videodisc) and add the video distributor and release date. For example, using It's a Wonderful Life: "...and Thomas Mitchell. 1946. Videocassette. Republic, 1988."

Government Publication

Citing Government publications poses special problems since they originate from so many different sources. In general if the author of the document is not known, cite as author the government agency that issued it. First state the name of the government followed by the agency name. Use abbreviations when applicable. For example: Florida. Dept. of Health and Human Services. or United States. Cong. Senate.

C: New York State. Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century. *The Adirondack Park in the Twenty-First Century*. Albany: State of New York, 1990.

N: 1 New York State, Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century, *The Adirondack Park in the Twenty-First Century* (Albany: State of New York, 1990) 44-47.

Microforms

C: Chapman, Dan. "Panel Could Help Protect Children." *Winston-Salem Journal* 14 Jan. 1990: 14. Newsbank: Welfare and Social Problems 12 (1990): fiche 1, grids A8-11.

N: 12 Dan Chapman, "Panel Could Help Protect Children," *Winston-Salem Journal* 14 Jan. 1990: 14, Newsbank: Welfare and Social Problems 12 (1990): fiche 1, grids A8-9.

Published Dissertation

C: Ames, Barbara. *Dreams and Painting: A case Study of the Relationship between an Artist's Dreams and Painting*. Diss. U of Virginia, 1978. Ann Arbor: UMI, 1978. 7812345.

N: 9 Barbara Ames, *Dreams and Painting: A case Study of the Relationship Between an Artist's Dreams and Painting*, diss., U of Virginia, 1978, (Ann Arbor: UMI, 1978, 7812345) 68.

Note: UMI, University Microfilms International, publishes dissertations and sells them. The number at the end of the entries is an order number. It may be possible to borrow a copy of a dissertation from the university that granted it through interlibrary loan. A loan request should be made before considering a purchase. See a reference librarian about interlibrary loans.

Unpublished Dissertation

C: Boyle, Anthony T. "The Epistemological Evolution of Renaissance Utopian Literature, 1516-1657." Diss. New York U, 1983.

N: 23 Anthony T. Boyle, "The Epistemological Evolution of Renaissance Utopian Literature, 1516-1657," diss., New York U, 1983, 43