

# RULES FOR CITING IN MLA FORMAT

The following rules and examples can be used to help you create MLA citations for books, journal articles, and websites:

## Basic Rules

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate sheet of paper at the end of your paper.

\* It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.

- Label the page Works Cited and center the words, like your title, at the top of the page.
- The citation entries should be aligned with the left margin.
- The second and subsequent lines of citations should be indented by 0.5 inches to create a *hanging* indent.
- All entries should be listed in alphabetical order.

## General Citation Format

Author. Title. Title of container (do not list container for standalone books, e.g. novels), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs URL or DOI). 2nd container's title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

## Books

The author's name should be written in a last name, first name format. Include the title of the book in italics, and follow with the city of publication, publisher, and the date of publication.

### Citation Format

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

\**Note:* the City of Publication should only be used if the book was published before 1900, if the publisher has offices in more than one country, or if the publisher is unknown in North America.

### Example

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. New York, Ballantine Books, 1953.

## Journal Articles

Cite by listing the article's author, putting the title of the article in quotation marks, and italicizing the periodical title. Follow with the date of publication. Remember to abbreviate the month.

### *Citation Format*

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, pages.

### *Example*

Cochran, David. "'I'm Being Ironic': Imperialism, Mass Culture, and the Fantastic World of Ray Bradbury."

*American Noir: Underground Writers and Filmmakers of the Postwar Era*. Washington:

Smithsonian Institution Press, 2000, pp.55-72. Rpt. In *Short Story Criticism*. Edited by Joseph

Palmisano. Vol. 73. Detroit: Gale, 2005. *Literature Resource Center*.

## Websites

Not every web page will provide all of the following information. However, collect as much as possible.

### *Citation Format*

Author. "Title." *Title of container (self contained if book)*, Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs and/or URL, DOI or permalink). *2nd container's title*, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

### *Example*

History.com editors. "Joseph McCarthy." *History.com*. 29 October 2009.

<https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/joseph-mccarthy>.

*Sources:*

Purdue Writing Lab. (n.d.). *MLA works cited page: Basic format // Purdue Writing Lab*. Purdue Writing Lab. Retrieved January 12, 2022, from [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_works\\_cited\\_page\\_basic\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_basic_format.html)

Purdue Writing Lab. (n.d.). *MLA works cited page: Books // Purdue Writing Lab*. Purdue Writing Lab. Retrieved January 12, 2022, from [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_works\\_cited\\_page\\_books.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_books.html)

Purdue Writing Lab. (n.d.). *MLA works cited page: Periodicals // purdue writing lab*. Purdue Writing Lab. Retrieved January 12, 2022, from [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_works\\_cited\\_periodicals.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_periodicals.html)

Purdue Writing Lab. (n.d.). *MLA works cited: Electronic sources // Purdue Writing Lab*. Purdue Writing Lab. Retrieved January 12, 2022, from [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_works\\_cited\\_electronic\\_sources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_electronic_sources.html)