

MLA Style: Reference Lists

MLA is the documentation style used for most writing in the humanities. The Modern Language Association determines the conventions for this style; its rules are specific and differ from those of other styles such as APA or Turabian. MLA documentation style has two parts: parenthetical citations and reference lists.

All writing that uses information from other sources should contain a reference page. This page should be titled **Bibliography** or **Works Consulted** when it contains both sources cited and those that were consulted but not used in the paper. When the page contains only those sources actually cited in the paper, it is titled a **Works Cited** page.

Reference lists serve a couple of purposes. In addition to showing the extent of your research, reference lists provide your reader with a way to find your sources so that he or she can learn more about your topic. Therefore, entries in reference lists need to be complete. The more basic entries provide a source's author, title, publication city, publisher and year. You should note if your source has additional features such as an editor, a volume number, translation information, etc. There are formats for documenting these features as well. The entries on your reference page must appear in alphabetical order, by author's last name or, when no author is given, using the first word of the entry.

Book:

Freedman, Richard R. What Do Unions Do? New York: Basic, 1984.

Articles in anthology:

King, Robert. "Should English Be the Law?" The Presence of Others: Voices and Images That Call for Response. 3rd ed. Ed. Andrea Lunsford and John Ruszkiewkz. New York: Bedford, 2000. 409-21.

Anthology or compilation: (use when citing two or more selections from the same anthology)

Nichols, Fred J., ed. An Anthology of Neo-Latin Poetry. New Haven: Yale UP, 1979.

Book with 2 or 3 authors:

Hyde, Margaret O., and Elizabeth Held Forsyth. Suicide: The Hidden Epidemic. New York: Watts, 1986.

Book with only an editor:

Lenneberg, Eric H., and Elizabeth Lenneberg, eds. Foundations of Language Development. New York: Academic, 1975.

Author with an editor:

Shakespeare, William. The Tragedy of Macbeth. Ed. Louis B. Wright and Virginia A. Lamar. New York: Washington Square, 1959.

Anonymous book:

New Jersey: A Guide to Its Past and Present. New York: Viking, 1989.

Corporate author:

Maryland Commission for Women. How to Translate Volunteer Skills into Employment Credentials. Baltimore: MD Commission for Women, 1979.

Edition other than the first:

Spatt, Brenda. Writing from Sources. 3rd ed. New York: St. Martin's, 1991.

Foreword, introduction, preface, or afterword:

Van Vechten, Carl. Introduction. Last Operas and Plays. By Gertrude Stein. Ed. Van Vechten. New York: Vintage-Random, 1975. vii-xix.

Newspaper article:

Fuerbringer, Jonathan. "Budgetary Rhythms." New York Times 20 Mar. 1987, late ed.: A8.

Popular magazine article:

Prince, Dinah. "Marriage in the '80s." New York 1 June 1987: 30-38.

Journal article:

Brock, Dan W. "The Value of Prolonging Human Life." Philosophic Studies 50 (1986): 401-26.

Encyclopedia:

Benedict, Roger William. "Northwest Passage." Encyclopedia Britannica: Macropaedia. 1974 ed.

Interview:

Gomes, Rev. Peter. Personal interview. 23 Apr. 1997.

Webpage: (generic)

Author. "Title of Individual Page." Homepage Title. Editor. Version. Date of last copyright or update. Institution or group sponsoring site. Access date <URL>.

Ex:

"Wittenberg University Department of English." Wittenberg University Online. Ed. Rebecca Russ. 2002. Wittenberg University. 1 Oct. 2002 <<http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/engl/>>.

This quick reference sheet is compiled from several editions of the SF Writer and guides to MLA documentation. For further examples and rules, consult an MLA handbook, or visit the friendly advisors at the Writing Center, 112 Hollenbeck Hall.