MLA Documentation Style
(Adapted from MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 7th ed.)

MLA PARENTHEtical REFERENCES

A parenthetical reference in a paper points the reader to the full citation on the works cited page. Typically, the reference includes the author's last name and page number if applicable. If sources don't have authors listed or page numbers, other methods are used to connect the parenthetical reference to the works cited entry.

Note: When punctuating parenthetical references, periods go after the parentheses, not before.

Below are examples of parenthetical references along with section numbers from the handbook where additional information can be found.

Author’s Name in Text — If the author's name is mentioned in the text of the paper, then only a page number (if applicable) is required in parentheses (6.3).

Baker states that the cause of death was accidental (24).

Author’s Name in Reference — If the author’s name does not appear in the text of the paper, both author’s name and page number (if applicable) are required in parentheses (6.3).

The cause of death was accidental (Baker 24).

Work by Two or Three Authors — Name the authors either in the text or include their last names in the parenthetical reference along with the page number (if applicable): (Patterson and Linden 89) (6.2).

Patterson and Linden agree that the gorilla Koko acquired language more slowly than a normal speaking child (89).

Work by Four or More Authors — Name the first author and mention the co-authors in the text, or put the first author’s last name followed by et al. (Latin for “and others”) in parentheses: (Terrace et al. 891) (6.2).

Ultimately, Terrace and his co-authors concluded that “most of Nim’s utterances were prompted by his teacher’s prior utterance” (891).

Work by Corporate Author — Name the corporate author in the text of the paper or put an abbreviated version in the parentheses: (Natl. Research Council 15) (6.4.5).

According to a study by the National Research Council, the population of China around 1990 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (15).

Works Listed by Title, Not Author — Mention the full title in the text or use a shortened form of the title in the parentheses. Titles or shortened titles of books are italicized: (Times Atlas 43). Titles or shortened titles of articles are put in quotation marks: (“Black” 103) (6.4.4).

According to “Black, Blue, and Gray: The Other Civil War,” black Americans, both slave and free, “provided the margin of difference that turned the tide against the confederate forces in 1864 and 1865” (103).
Two or More Works by the Same Author—If the list of works cited contains two or more works by the same author, mention the full title of the work in the text or use a shortened form of the title in the parentheses: (Eloquent 67) (6.4.6).

In Eloquent Animals, Flora Davis reports that a chimp at the Yerkes Primate Research Center “has combined words into sentences that she was never taught” (67).

In the rare case when both the author and a shortened title must be given in parentheses, the citation should appear like this: (Davis, Eloquent 67).

Indirect Source—When a writer’s or speaker’s quoted words appear in a work written by another author, use the abbreviation “qtd. in” (quoted in) before the author’s name in the parentheses (6.4.7).

“We only used seven signs in his presence,” says Fouts. “All of his signs were learned from the other chimps at the laboratory” (qtd. in Toner 24).

Work in an Anthology—Put the name of the author of the work (NOT the editor of the anthology) in the text or in the parentheses: (Chopin 25) (6.4.2).

At the end of Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour,” Mrs. Mallard drops dead upon learning that her husband is alive. In the final irony of the story, doctors report that she has died of a “joy that kills” (25).

Multivolume Work—To cite a volume number as well as a page reference for a multivolume work, separate the two by a colon and a space: (Terman 2: 279) (6.4.3).

Terman’s studies of gifted children reveal a pattern of accelerated language acquisition (2: 279).

To cite an entire volume of a multivolume work, place a comma after the author’s name and include the abbreviation “vol” in the parenthetical reference: (Thomas, vol. 2). Write out the word “volume” in a sentence:

Thomas explains the importance of gun safety in volume 2.

Entire Work—To cite an entire work, use the author’s name in the text or in a parenthetical reference (page numbers are NOT necessary) (6.4.1).

Patterson and Linden provide convincing evidence for the speech-making abilities of non-human primates.

More Than One Work in a Single Reference—When citing more than one source to document a particular point, separate the citations with a semicolon (6.4.9).

With intensive training, the apes in this study learned more than two hundred signs or signals (Desmond 229; Linden 173).

Authors with the Same Last Name—If the list of works cited includes works by two or more authors with the same last name, include the first initial of the author being cited in the text or parenthetical reference. If the initials are the same as well, use the full first name: (Adrian Desmond 201) (6.2).

Both Lucy and Koko have been reported to lie (A. Desmond 201).

Electronic Publications without Page Numbers—Some electronic sources use paragraph numbers or other types of reference numbers instead of page numbers. For sources with paragraph numbers use the abbreviation “par.” or “pars.” in the parentheses: (Smith, par. 4). When a source has no page numbers or any other kind of reference numbers, no number can be given in the parenthetical reference. In that case, use either the author’s last name or the title of the work, whichever is
Long Quotations—If a quotation is more than four lines in your paper, set it apart from the text by beginning a new line and indenting one inch. Type it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks (the example below has been single spaced to conserve space). The following is an example of a long quote. Note that the end punctuation is different than an in-text reference—the period comes before the parenthetical citation. Note also that a full sentence followed by a colon generally introduces a long quotation (3.7.2):

At the conclusion of the *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (186)

Punctuation with Quotations—When quoted material is introduced formally (using a complete sentence), follow the introduction with a colon. If the introduction is part of the sentence structure, use either a comma or no punctuation (3.7.7):

Smith states the obvious at the end of the story: “John was to blame for the fire, but Sarah was the person who influenced his decision” (221).

Smith states, “John was to blame for the fire, but Sarah was the person who influenced his decision” (221).

Use double quotation marks around direct quotes and single quotation marks around quotes within quotes:

“Robert Stone believed he was ‘an advocate’ for human rights” (31).

Refer to the following sections in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.* for more information about parenthetical references:

- Prose 3.7.2
- Poetry 3.7.3
- Drama 3.7.4
- Common Literature 6.4.8
MLA LIST OF WORKS CITED

An alphabetized list of works cited, which appears at the end of a paper, gives full publishing information for each of the sources cited in the paper. This list should be titled Works Cited. The following models illustrate the MLA form for entries in the list of works cited. To find additional information in the handbook, reference the section numbers (in parentheses) listed with each entry.

NOTE: To conserve space in this handout, the following entries are single-spaced; however, in your paper they should be double-spaced between and within entries (see last page of handout for a model).

When possible, shorten the names of publishers in the works cited entries. The following are some abbreviations commonly used for publishers’ names (For more abbreviations, refer to 7.5):

ALA    American Library Association
Cambridge UP  Cambridge University Press
ERIC    Educational Resources Information Center
Gale    Gale Research, Inc.
GPO    Government Printing Office
Houghton   Houghton Mifflin Co.
Macmillan   Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.
U of Chicago P  University of Chicago Press

Books

Book by a Single Author (5.5.2)


Book by Two or Three Authors (5.5.4)


Book by Four or More Authors (5.5.4)


Anonymous Book (5.5.9)


Book by a Corporate Author (5.5.5)


Anthology or Compilation (Not the same citation used for a work in an anthology) (5.5.3)


Book with Author and Editor (5.5.10)

Translated Work (5.5.11)

Two or More Works by the Same Author (5.3.4)

Book Published in a Second or Subsequent Edition (5.5.13)

Multivolume Work (5.5.14)
Note: Citations will vary, depending on what you are using from a multivolume work.

Work in an Anthology (5.5.6)

Introduction, Preface, Foreword, or Afterword (5.5.8)

Article in a Reference Book (5.5.7)

Book in a Series (5.5.15)

Republished Book (5.5.16)

Periodicals
Article in a Monthly or Bimonthly Magazine (5.4.6)
If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, write the first page number and a plus sign.

Article in a Weekly or Biweekly Magazine (5.4.6)

Article in a Newspaper (5.4.5)
**Article in a Scholarly Journal (5.4.2)**

The following items should be listed in the citation:
1) Author of article
2) Title of article (in quotes)
3) Name of journal (italicized)
4) Volume number
5) Issue number (if available)
6) Year of publication
7) Page numbers
8) Medium of publication consulted (Print)


**Article in a Scholarly Journal with Only Issue Numbers**—If journals do not use volume numbers, cite the issue numbers alone (5.4.3).


**Anonymous Article (5.4.9)**


**Review (5.4.7)**


**Editorial (5.4.10)**


**Letter to the Editor (5.4.11)**


**Other Sources**

**Government Publication (5.5.20)**


**Brochure, Pamphlet, or Press Release (5.5.19)**


Use the above example for a brochure or pamphlet. For a press release, add the day and month of release to the year if available.

**Unpublished and Published Dissertations (5.5.25 and 5.5.26)**

For an unpublished dissertation, the entry should look like the following:


For a published dissertation, the entry should look like the following:

Interview Conducted by Researcher (5.7.7)
Shaw, Lloyd. Personal interview. 21 Mar. 1996.

Published or Broadcast Interview (5.7.7)

Film or Video Recording (5.7.3)

Cite a DVD, videocassette, laser disc, slide program, or filmstrip as you would a film, but also include the original release date when it is relevant.


Radio or Television Broadcast (5.7.1)

Performance (5.7.4)

Sound Recording (5.7.2)

Work of Visual Art (5.7.6)

Letter, Memo, or E-Mail (5.7.13)

Lecture, Speech, Address, or Reading (5.7.11)

Cartoon or Comic Strip (5.7.9)

Map or Chart (5.7.8)

Online Sources

According to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., URLs have “limited value” when attempting to reference a source from a works cited entry. The entries below do NOT contain
web addresses (URLs); however, if your instructor wants URLs to be included in your work cited entries or if the reader cannot locate sources without URLs, include them at the end of your online entries, enclose them in angle brackets < >, and end with a period.

**Work Cited Only on the Web** (5.6.2.b)

This source needs to have the following items listed:
1) Author, compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, or translator of the work
2) Title of the work (italicized if the work is independent; in quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work)
3) Title of the overall Web site (italicized), if distinct from item 2
4) Version or edition used
5) Publisher or sponsor; if not available, use N.p.
6) Date of publication (day, month, and year, as available); if no date is available, use n.d.
7) Medium of publication (Web)
8) Date of access (day, month, and year)


**Work Cited on the Web and in Print** (5.6.2.c)


**Work Cited on the Web and in Another Medium** (5.6.2.d)


**Scholarly Journal** (5.6.3)


**Periodical Publication in an Online Database** (5.6.4)


For further help with citing sources, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.*