



WRITING CENTER QUICK REFERENCE MLA CITATION GUIDE

This guide will help you properly cite your sources from the Internet in MLA format. These may include online books, electronic journals, electronic magazines, online newspaper articles, scholarly projects or information databases, e-mail messages, web postings, listserv messages, and any other sources found online.

Note: In-text citations of Internet sources follow the same format as those of non-Internet sources. Please consult the MLA format guide for an explanation.

The following Quick Reference is taken from *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th edition.

It's important when using online sources to gather as much of the following information possible for each source:

- Name of the author, editor, compiler, or translator, followed by any appropriate abbreviations, such as ed.
- Title of shorter work within a larger work, in quotation marks
- Title of a book, in italics or underlined
- Name of the editor, compiler, or translator of a book (if not cited earlier), with any appropriate abbreviations
- Publication information for any print versions
- Title of a scholarly project, database, or professional or personal site (in italics or underlined), or, for a site with no title, a description such as a home page
- Name of the editor of a scholarly project or database
- Version number or, for a journal, the volume, issue, or other identifying number
- Date of the most recent electronic publication or posting
- Name of any institution or organization sponsoring or associated with the site
- Date you accessed the source
- URL (in angle brackets)

Basic Format for an Online Source:

MLA no longer requires the use of URLs in MLA citations. Because Web addresses change often and documents sometimes appear in multiple places on the Web, MLA explains that most readers can find electronic sources via title or author searches in online search engines. For instructors or editors who still wish to require the use of

URLs, MLA suggests that the URL appear in angle brackets after the date of access. Break URLs only after slashes.

Aristotle. *Poetics*. Trans. S. H. Butcher. *The Internet Classics Archive*. Web Atomic and Massachusetts Institution of Technology, 13 September 2007. Web. 4 Nov. 2008.
<<http://classics.mit.edu/>>

Citing an Entire Website:

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication (Web). Date of access.

Example:

The COM Writing Center Home Page. Boston University College of Communication Writing Center. 5 October 2011. Web. 10 October 2011.

Citing a Page on a Website:

"How to Make White Chili." *eHow.com*. eHow, n.d. Web. 11 September 2011.

Citing an Image (painting, sculpture, photograph online):

Provide the artist's name, the work of art, the date of creation, and the institution and city where the work is housed. Follow this initial entry with the name of the Website in italics, the medium of publication, and the date of access.

Goya, Francisco. *The Family of Charles IV*. 1800. Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid.
Museo Nacional del Prado. Web. 22 May 2006.

Citing an Article in a Web Magazine:

Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips for Social Networking." *Time Magazine Online*. Time Warner, 16 March 2011. Web. 4 October 2011.

Citing an Article in an Online Scholarly Journal:

Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal* 6.2 (2008): n. pag. Web. 11 October 2011

Citing an Article from an Online Database:

Cite articles from online databases (e.g. LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR, ScienceDirect) and other subscription services just as you would print sources. Since these articles usually come from periodicals, be sure to consult the appropriate sections of the Works Cited: Periodicals page, which you can access via its link at the bottom of the page. In addition to this information, provide the title of the database italicized, the medium of publication, and the date of access.

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historic Journal* 50.1 (2007): 173-96. *ProQuest*. Web. 11 October 2011.

Citing an Email (including email interviews):

Give the author of the message, followed by the subject line in quotation marks. State to whom the message was sent, the date the message was sent, and the medium of publication.

Neyhart, David. "Re: Online Tutoring." Message to Joe Barbato. 1 September 2011. Email.

Citing a Blog Posting, Discussion Board, or Listserv

Cite web postings as you would a standard web entry. Provide the author of the work, the title of the posting in quotation marks, the Web site name in italics, the publisher, and the posting date. Follow with the medium of publication and the date of access. Include screen names as author names when author name is not known. If both names are known, place the author's name in brackets. Remember if the publisher of the site is unknown, use the abbreviation *n.p.*

Salmar1515 [Sal Hernandez]. "Re: Best Strategy: Fenced Pastures vs. Max Number of Rooms?" *BoardGameGeek*. BoardGameGeek, 29 Sept. 2008. Web. 5 April 2011.