

MLA Style Citations

This handout describes basic formatting and citation style as laid out in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 7th ed.* (with page references to the appropriate sections). Always check with your instructor for course-specific guidelines.

Formatting

(116-122)

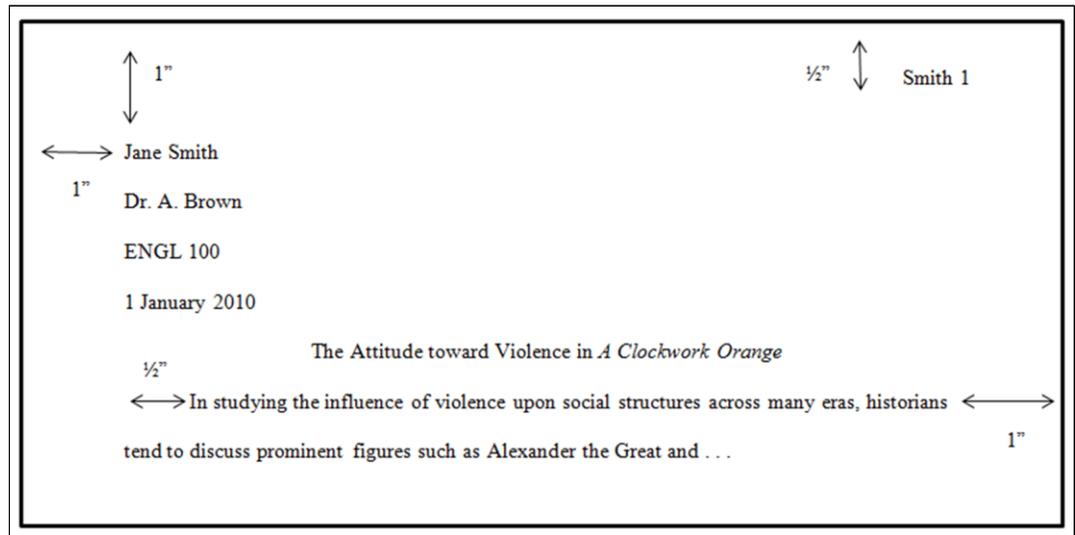
Choose a standard, easily readable typeface and font size such as **Times New Roman, 12. Double-space the entire document.**

A separate title page is not required. Your name, the instructor's name,

the course number, and the date are placed on separate lines at the top left of the first page.

Center the **title** and capitalize major words. (Do not underline or bold the title.)

Place your last name and page number in the top right hand corner of each page in the header, (without any abbreviations or punctuation).



In-text citations (213-232)

1. Citations must be used after every **direct quote** and for any section of **paraphrased** information.

eg. Medieval Europe was a place both of “raids, pillages, slavery and extortion” and of “traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns if not cities, and active markets in grain” (Townsend 10).

eg. Though a reputation of violence and extortion was common in Medieval Europe, it also had a growing reputation for its strong economy (Townsend 10).

2. If a **single author or work is referenced multiple times**, only page references are needed after the first citation. This practice continues until another work is referenced.

eg. Though a reputation of “raids, pillages, slavery and extortion was common in Medieval Europe” (Townsend 10), it also had growing reputation for its strong economy. It became known as a place of “traveling merchants, monetary exchange, towns if not cities, and active markets in grain” (10).

3. If the **author’s name is mentioned in the sentence** it does not need to be repeated in the citation.

eg. Tannen has argued this point (178-85).
The point has already been argued (Tannen 178-85).

4. For citations of **religious or classic prose** works (such as the Bible or a play) in which individual passages are marked, list the numeration of the passage instead of the page number. Passages should be listed in descending division (act, scene, canto, book, paragraph, line).

eg. In *The Faerie Queene*, Britomart learns in Merlin’s cave that her affliction with Artegall’s sight was unavoidable due to her “destined” role to be his wife (Spencer III.iii.26), but this knowledge is unavailable to her when she first encounters the vision.

5. When using a **block quote** (a quotation four lines or longer), it must be set off from the text and double-spaced. The parenthetical citation is placed *after* the concluding punctuation mark of the quotation.

eg. John K. Mahon adds further insight to our understanding of the War of 1812:
Financing the war was very difficult at the time. Baring Brother, a banking firm of the enemy country, handled routine accounts for the United States overseas, but the firm would take on no loans. The Loans were in the end absorbed by wealthy Americans at great hazard – also, as it turned out, at great profit to them. (385)

6. If the word used or punctuation is changed from the original quote in order to make the writing clearer, indicate this by placing [square brackets] around the changed area(s).

eg. Original quote: “The term *virtual reality* (VR) was already in use, referring to augmenting the real or physical world with electronically synthesized data” (Milgram 2).

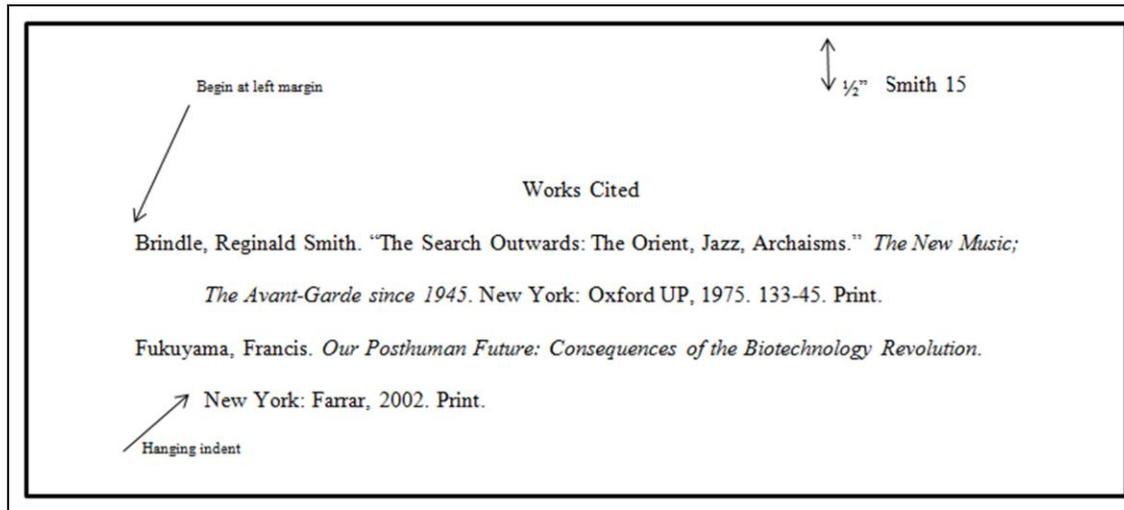
Cited quote: The technology of virtual reality “augment[s] the real or physical world with electronically synthesized data” (Milgram 2).

7. If parts of the quote are left out, indicate this by putting ellipsis [...] in place of the missing words. If the original quote is grammatically flawed, but left intact for the sake of the paper, indicate this by placing [sic] within the citation.

eg. Hamlet seems resolute at first when he asserts, “Haste me to know’t, that I, with wings as swift / As meditation... / May sweep to my revenge” (Shakespeare 1.5.35-37 [sic]).

Documentation (123-212)

Place the list of **works cited** at the end of the paper on a separate page.



Alphabetize entries by the author's last name; if unknown, alphabetize by the title, ignoring any articles (*a*, *an*, or *the*). The titles of journal articles, short stories, and

poems are placed in quotation marks. Books, journals, encyclopedias, films, and plays are *italicized*.

Sample References

Only common citation samples are included here. For more citation examples, please refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 7th ed.*

Books

Book by a single author:

Taves, Brian. *The Romance of Adventure: The Genre of Historical Adventure Movies*. Jackson: UP of Mississippi, 1993. Print.

Books by multiple authors:

Rabkin, Eric S., Martin H. Greenberg, and Joseph D. Olander. Preface. *No Place Else: Explorations in Utopian and Dystopian Fiction*. Ed. Rabkin, Greenberg, and Olander. Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 1983. Print.

Books by a corporate author:

Public Agenda Foundation. *The Health Care Crisis: Containing Costs, Expanding Coverage*. New York: McGraw, 1992. Print.

Piece from an anthology:

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. *A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America*. Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88. Print.

Edited or translated book:

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. New York: Washington Square-pocket, 1992. Print.

Periodicals

Journal article:

Trumpener, Katie. "Memories Carved in Granite: Great War Memorials and Everyday Life." *PMLA* 115 (2000): 1096-103. Print.

Article from a newspaper:

Jeromack, Paul. "This Once, a David of the Art World Doe Goliath a Favour." *New York Times* 13 July 2002, late ed.: B7+. Print.

Electronic Media

Television show:

"Out of Gas." *Firefly: The Complete Series*. Dir. Joss Whedon. 2002. 20th Century Fox, 2003. DVD.

Film:

It's a Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. 1946. Republic, 2001. DVD.

Document posted on website (184-85):

Ross, Don. "Game Theory." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Stanford U. 10 March 2006. Web. 18 Jan. 2010 <<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/game-theory/>>.

Online book:

Volosinov, V.N. [M.M. Bakhtin]. *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language*. Trans. Ladislav Matejka and I.R. Titunik. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1986. *Google Book Search*. Web. 18 Jan. 2010.

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Ed. Henry Churchyard. 1996. *Jane Austen Information Page*. Web. 6 Sept. 2009. <<http://pemberly.com/janeinfo/pridepred.html>>.

Electronic Journal / Newspaper Article:

Dane, Gabrielle. "Reading Ophelia's Madness." *Exemplaria* 10.2 (1998). Web. 22 June 2009. <http://web.english.ufl.edu/english/exemplaria/danefram.htm>

Journal article from online database:

Trumpner, Katie. "Memories Carved in Granite: Great War Memorials and Everyday Life." *PMLA* 115 (2000): 1096-103. *JSTOR*. Web. 18 Jan. 2010. [i.e., date the article was accessed]

Unique Citations

Anonymous works:

"Mandarin." *The Encyclopedia Americana*. 1994 ed. 1024. Print.

Government publication:

United Nations. *Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries*. New York: Taylor, 1991. Print.

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