

Works Cited

The works cited list begins on a new page at the end of the research paper. Following the running head (numbered consecutively with the preceding pages), the title, “Works Cited”, is centered on the page. Entries are listed alphabetically by author’s last name. If a source does not have an author, begin the entry with the title. The first line of each entry should be flush with the left margin, but subsequent lines of the entry are indented ½” in a format known as hanging indentation.

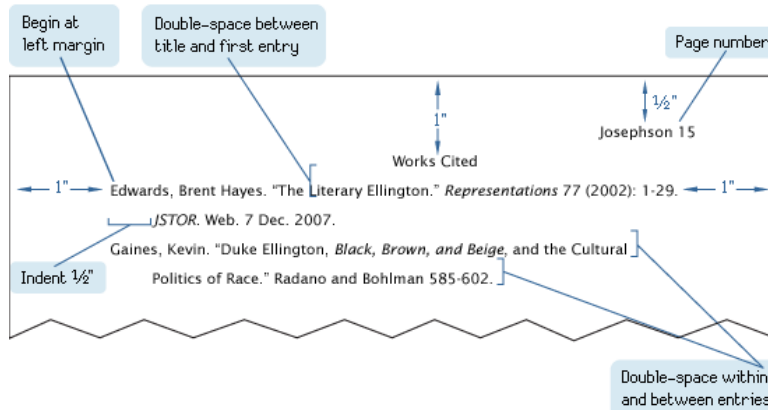


Fig. 2. Sample works cited page from the *MLA Handbook* (5.3.2).

If an author has multiple works cited, alphabetize the works by title, indicating the author’s name in the first entry, but substituting three hyphens and a period in subsequent entries:

Ackerley, J. R. *My Dog Tulip*. London: Bodley Head, 1966.
Print.

---. *My Father and Myself*. London: Bloomsbury, 2000.
Print.

---. *We Think the World of You*. New York: Poseidon, 1988.
Print.

Works Cited Formats

Be sure to adhere to the order, capitalization, punctuation, and formatting of each element in an entry.

Book (Print)

Author’s Last Name, First Name. *Book Title*. Publication City: Publisher, publication year. Print.

Book (Electronic)

Author’s Last Name, First Name. *Book Title*. Publication City: Publisher, publication year. *Database/Website Title*. Web. access date.

Journal Article (Print)

Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” *Journal Title* volume #.issue # (year): page #s. Print.

Journal Article (Database)

Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” *Journal Title* volume #.issue # (publication year): page #s. *Database Title*. Web. access date.

Magazine/Newspaper Article (Print)

Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.”
Magazine/Newspaper Title publication date: page #s. Print.

Magazine/Newspaper Article (Database)

Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.”
Magazine/Newspaper Title publication date: page #s. *Database Title*. Web. access date.

Website

Author’s Last Name, First Name. *Website Title*. Publisher, publication date. Web. access date.

MLA Style Quick Guide



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MLA Style

MLA style is a common method of documenting research, most recently published by the Modern Language Association in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th edition). The hallmarks of MLA documentation style include brief parenthetical citations within the body of the text and a more detailed list of works cited at the end of the research paper.

This brief guide outlines the most pertinent features of MLA style for college students writing research papers. Please consult the actual *MLA Handbook* for more detailed information and additional examples. Copies are available for library use at the Reference Desk and Reserve Desk.

What's New in the 7th Edition of MLA Style?

- Book and periodical titles are now *italicized* rather than underlined.
- All entries in the works cited list must now include the medium of publication (e.g., print, radio, television, web, CD, DVD, film, performance, photograph, *Microsoft Word* file, MP3 file, PDF file, etc.).
- Entries for online sources in the works cited list no longer have to include URLs, unless there are no other means of locating the source.
- Entries for journal articles in the works cited list should include both the volume and the issue numbers (if available).
- Missing publication information may be abbreviated as follows: n.d. (no date of publication), n.p. (no place of publication or publisher), and n. pag. (no pagination).

Research Paper Format

Follow these general guidelines for formatting a research paper according to MLA style:

- Running head (student's last name and page number) on every page, 1/2" from top, flush with right margin
- 1" margins all around (top, bottom, and sides)
- Left-aligned, double-spaced text
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- First line of paragraph indented 1/2" from left margin
- Long quotations of more than four lines indented 1" from left margin

How Is the First Page Formatted?

Instead of a title page, the first page contains the running head, followed by the student's name, the instructor's name, the course name and number, and the date (in day-month-year format) on four separate lines. The title comes next, centered on the page, but not bolded, italicized, or underlined. After the title, the body of the paper begins.

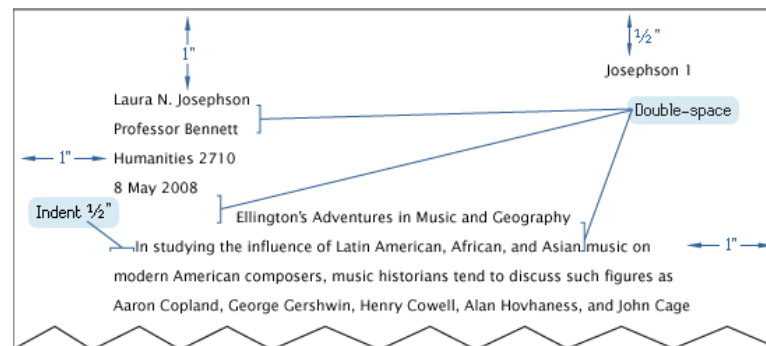


Fig. 1. Sample first page from the *MLA Handbook* (4.3).

Parenthetical Citations

When quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, or referring to a source from the works cited list, use parenthetical citations in the body of the text, rather than endnotes or footnotes. A parenthetical citation generally consists of the author's last name and the page number(s), enclosed in parentheses. Place the parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence or at a naturally occurring pause in the sentence, as close to the cited material as possible.

What If . . . ?

- If the author's name is already mentioned in the sentence, include only the page number(s) in the parentheses:
Smith objected to that notion (135-42).
- If an author has two or more works cited, place a comma after the author's name and add the title or a shortened version of it before the page number(s):
Napoleon's soldiers nicknamed him the "Little Corporal" (Brown, *Brief History* 257).
- If the work cited has no author, use the title or a shortened version of it:
. . . (*MLA Handbook* 223).
- If the work cited has multiple volumes, include the volume before the page number(s), separated by a colon and a space:
. . . (Dickinson 3: 186).
- If citing two or more sources in a single parenthetical citation, separate the sources with semicolons:
. . . (Carter 29-32; Jones 321).