The Wadsworth Essential Reference Card to the

Using MLA Style
The summary below outlines the essential changes to the Modern Language Association's documentation style as described in the recently published MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition.

(1) PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES
MLA documentation uses parenthetical references in the body of the paper that are keyed to a works-cited list at the end of the paper. A typical parenthetical reference consists of the author's last name and a page number.

The colony appealed to many idealists in Europe (Kelley 132).

If you state the author's name or the title of the work in your discussion, do not include it in the parenthetical reference.

Penn's political motivation is discussed by Joseph J. Kelley in Pennsylvania, The Colonial Years, 1681-1776 (44).

To distinguish between two or more sources by the same author, include a shortened title after the author's name. When you shorten a title, begin with the word by which the work is alphabetized in the list of works cited.

Penn emphasized his religious motivation (Kelley, Pennsylvania 116).

When a reference to an electronic source includes paragraph numbers rather than page numbers, use the abbreviation par. or pars. followed by the paragraph number or numbers.

The earliest type of movie censorship came in the form of licensing fees, and in Deer River, Minnesota, “a licensing fee of $200 was deemed not excessive for a town of 1000” (Ernst, par. 20).

When the electronic source has no page or paragraph numbers, try to cite the work in your discussion rather than in a parenthetical reference. By consulting your works-cited list, readers will be able to determine that the source is electronic and may therefore not have page numbers.

In her article “Limited Horizons,” Lynne Cheney observes that schools do best when students read literature not for practical information but for its insights into the human condition.

(2) WORKS-CITED LIST
The works-cited list, which appears at the end of your paper, is an alphabetical listing of all the research materials you cite.

Print Sources: Entries for Articles
Article citations include the author's name; the title of the article (in quotation marks); the title of the periodical (italicized); the year or date of publication; the pages on which the full article appears, without the abbreviations p. or pp.; and the publication medium.

1. An Article in a Scholarly Journal
For an article in a journal with continuous pagination through an annual volume or separate pagination in each issue, include the volume number, a period, and the issue number.


2. An Article in a Weekly Magazine (Signed/Unsigned)
For signed articles, start with the author, last name first. In dates, the day precedes the month (abbreviated except for May, June, and July).


For unsigned articles, start with the title of the article.


3. An Article in a Monthly Magazine

4. An Article That Does Not Appear on Consecutive Pages
When, for example, an article begins on page 120 and then skips to page 186, include only the first page number, followed by a plus sign.


5. An Article in a Newspaper (Signed/Unsigned)


NOTE: Omit an initial The from the title of a newspaper even if the newspaper's actual title begins with the article.

6. An Editorial in a Newspaper

7. A Letter to the Editor of a Newspaper
8. A Book Review in a Newspaper

Print Sources: Entries for Books
Book citations include the author's name, the book's title (italicized), and publication information (place, publisher, date, publication medium). Capitalize all major words of the book's title except articles, coordinating conjunctions, prepositions, and the to of an infinitive (unless such a word is the first or last word of the title or subtitle).

9. A Book by One Author

10. A Book by Two or Three Authors
List the first author with last name first. List subsequent authors with first name first in the order in which they appear on the title page.


11. A Book by a Corporate Author
A book is cited by its corporate author when individual members of the association, commission, or committee that produced it are not identified on the title page.


12. An Edited Book
An edited book is a work prepared for publication by a person other than the author. If your focus is on the author's work, begin your citation with the author's name. After the title and original publication date (if applicable), include the abbreviation Ed. (“Edited by”) followed by the editor or editors.


If your focus is on the editor's work, begin your citation with the editor's name followed by the abbreviation ed. (“editor”) if there is one editor or eds. (“editors”) if there are more than one. After the title, give the author's name, preceded by the word By.


When citing an edition other than the first, include the edition number that appears on the work's title page.


14. A Multivolume Work
When all volumes of a multivolume work have the same title, include the number of the volume you are using.


If you use two or more volumes that have the same title, cite the entire work.


When the volume you are using has an individual title, you may cite the title without mentioning any other volumes.


If you wish, you may include supplemental information such as the number of the volume, the title of the entire work, the total number of volumes, or the inclusive publication dates.

15. An Illustrated Book or a Graphic Narrative
An illustrated book is a work in which illustrations accompany text written by a person other than the illustrator. If your focus is on the author's work, begin your citation with the author's name. After the title, include the abbreviation Illus. (“Illustrated by”) followed by the publication information.


If your focus is on the illustrator's work, begin your citation with the illustrator's name followed by the abbreviation illus. (“illustrator”). After the title, give the author's name, preceded by the word By.


A graphic narrative is a work that contains text and illustrations created by one or more authors. Cite a graphic narrative the same way you would cite a book.


16. The Foreword, Preface, or Afterword of a Book

17. A Translation

18. The Bible
Italicize the title, and give full publication information.

19. The Qur’an

20. A Short Story, Play, or Poem in an Anthology

21. An Essay in an Anthology
Even if you cite only one page of an essay in your paper, supply inclusive page numbers for the entire essay.

22. More Than One Work from the Same Anthology
List each work from the same anthology separately, followed by a cross-reference to the entire anthology. Also list complete publication information for the anthology itself.

23. An Article in a Reference Book (Signed/Unsigned)
For a signed article, begin with the author's name. For unfamiliar reference books, include full publication information.
If the article is unsigned, begin with the title. For familiar reference books, do not include full publication information.

NOTE: Omit page numbers when the reference book lists entries alphabetically. If you are listing one definition among several from a dictionary, include the abbreviation Def. (“Definition”) along with the letter and/or number that corresponds to the definition.


If the publication has no listed author, begin with the name of the government, followed by the name of the agency. You may use an abbreviation if its meaning is clear: United States. Cong. Senate.
When citing two or more publications by the same government, use three unspaced hyphens (followed by a period) in place of the name for the second and subsequent entries. When you cite more than one work from the same agency of that government, use an additional set of unspaced hyphens in place of the agency name.

Electronic Sources: Entries for Sources from Internet Sites
MLA style recognizes that full source information for Internet sources is not always available. Include in your citation whatever information you can reasonably obtain: the author or editor of the site (if available); the name of the site (italicized); the version number of the source (if applicable); the name of any institution or sponsor (if unavailable, include the abbreviation N.p. for “no publisher given”); the date of electronic publication or update (if unavailable, include the abbreviation n.d. for “no date of publication”); the publication medium; and the date you accessed the source. MLA style recommends omitting the URL from the citation unless it is necessary in finding the source.

25. An Entire Web Site

26. A Document within a Web Site

27. A Home Page

28. A Radio Program Accessed from an Internet Archive

29. An E-mail

30. An Online Posting

31. A Book
32. An Article in a Scholarly Journal
When you cite information from an electronic source that has a print version, include the publication information for the
print source, the inclusive page numbers if available (if unavailable, include the abbreviation n. pag. for “no pagination given”),
the publication medium, and the date you accessed it.


33. An Article in a Magazine

34. An Article in a Newspaper

35. An Article in a Newsletter

36. A Review

37. A Letter to the Editor

38. An Article in an Encyclopedia
Include the article's title, the title of the database (italicized), the version number (if available), the sponsor, the date of elec-
tronic publication, the publication medium, and the date of access.


39. A Government Publication
Cite an online government publication as you would cite a print version; end with the information required for an elec-
tronic source.


Electronic Sources: Entries for Sources from Online Databases
Cite a source from an online database as you would cite a print version; end with the title of the database (italicized), the publi-
cation medium, and the date of access. If inclusive page numbers are unavailable, use n. pag.

40. An Article in a Scholarly Journal

41. A Monthly Magazine Article

42. A News Service

43. A Newspaper Article

Additional Common Sources

44. A Painting or Photograph
NOTE: Cite an online painting or photograph as you would cite a print version, end with the title of the Web site or data-
base (italicized), the publication medium, and the date of access.

45. A Nonperiodical Publication on DVD-ROM or CD-ROM
Cite a nonperiodical publication on DVD-ROM or CD-ROM the same way you would cite a book, but include the appro-
perate publication medium.


46. A Periodical Publication on DVD-ROM or CD-ROM

47. A Digital File