

# MLA Citation Style Guide

Please refer to the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#) for more detailed information and examples (the current edition is available at the Tribble Library Reference Desk). For further assistance, contact a reference librarian (594-7132, [library@cnu.edu](mailto:library@cnu.edu)) or visit the Alice Randall Writing Center in Ratcliffe.

## Formatting the Works Cited List

The works cited appears at the end of your paper. It should be arranged alphabetically by author's last name. Sources without authors are arranged alphabetically by title (omitting a, an, the). The first line should be aligned with the left margin. The second line should be indented ½ inch from the left margin. Entries are double-spaced within and between sources (examples below are single spaced to save room).

## Sample Works Cited Entries

### Books

Author's Name. Title of the book. Place of publication: Publisher, Date of Publication.

#### *Single Author:*

Kurlansky, Mark. Salt: A World History. New York: Walker, 2002.

*Two or Three Authors:* [For more than three authors, list only the 1<sup>st</sup> author followed by et al.]

Marquart, James W., Sheldon Ekland Olson, and Jonathan R. Sorensen. The Rope, the Chain and the Needle: Capital Punishment in Texas. Austin: U of Texas, 1994.

#### *Article within a book:*

Author of article. "Title of Article." Title of the Book. Editor of the book. Place of publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Page numbers of article.

More, Hannah. "The Black Slave Trade: a Poem." British Women Poets of the Romantic Era. Ed. Paula R. Feldman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997. 472-82.

### Periodicals

#### *Scholarly Journal:*

Author's name. "Title of the Article." Journal Title volume number (date of publication): page numbers of the article.

White, Sabina, and Andrew Winzelberg. "Laughter and Stress." Humor 5 (1992): 343-55.

#### *Magazine:*

Author's name. "Title of the article." Magazine Title date of publication: page numbers of the article.

Gwande, Atul. "The Man Who Couldn't Stop Eating." New Yorker 9 July 2001: 66-75.

#### *Daily Newspaper:*

Author's name. "Title of the Article." Newspaper complete date, edition (if given): page number. [Page number includes the section of the newspaper and the first page the article appears on. The + sign is used to indicate an article continues on another page.]

Chang, Kenneth. "The Melting (Freezing) of Antarctica." New York Times 2 Apr. 2002, late ed.: F1+.

## Electronic Publications

### *Material from a Website:*

Author's name. "Title of Document." Title of Complete Work (if applicable). Sponsoring/Publishing Agency, if given. Date of publication or last revision (if known). Date of access <URL>.

Harrer, Kristin M. "Title IX Update." Women's Sports Foundation: Issues and Action. Women's Sports Foundation. 8 July 2004. 23 July 2004 <<http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/cgi-bin/iowa/issues/article.html?record=997>>.

### *Material from a Database:*

Author's name. "Title of the Article." Title of the Periodical volume number.issue number (date of publication): page numbers. Name of Database Used. Name of Service. Name of Library, City, State Abbreviation. Date of access <URL of service's homepage>.

[If there is a PDF of the article available provide the start and ending pages. Otherwise just list the first page followed by a dash (-) to indicate it continues.]

Schmidt, Jennifer A. and Brenda Padilla. "Self-esteem and Family Challenge: An Investigation of Their Effects on Achievement." Journal of Youth and Adolescence 32.1 (2003): 37-. InfoTrac Expanded Academic ASAP. Gale Group/Infotrac. Tribble Library, Newport News, VA. 23 July 2004 <<http://www.galegroup.com/>>.

Stevenson, John Allen. "A Vampire in the Mirror: The Sexuality of Dracula." PMLA 103.2 (Mar. 1988): 139-149. JSTOR. Tribble Library, Newport News, VA. 23 July 2004 <<http://www.jstor.org/>>.

## In-Text Citation

Place references in parentheses in the text of the paper. The parenthetical reference should proceed the concluding punctuation mark. The information in the parentheses should include the author's name and the specific page(s), and should refer to the same source in the "Works Cited." Place the parenthetical reference as near as possible to the material it documents, preferably at the end of a sentence. If a source does not have an author, use a shortened version of the title instead.

### *Basic Format of Parenthetical Documentation:*

People from the Mediterranean prefer an elbow-to-shoulder distance from each other (Morris 131).

### *Variations of Parenthetical Documentation:*

If the author is mentioned in the text, only the page numbers are in the parenthetical reference.

*Example:* Desmond Morris notes that people from the Mediterranean prefer an elbow-to-shoulder distance from each other (10-11).

If there are 2 or 3 authors, list all of their names. [If more than 3, list the 1<sup>st</sup> author followed by et al.]

*Example:* Barickman, MacDonald, and Stark have noted this relationship (10-11).

If citing one of two or more works by the same author, add the title of the work (short version if necessary) and the page number(s).

*Example:* Edgar Allen Poe was an important prophet of Symbolism (Wilson, Axel's Castle, 12).