MLA Style

MLA (Modern Language Association) format, like any citation style, consists of two main parts: citations and a bibliography. In MLA, citations occur in the text in parentheses. The bibliography, called a “Works Cited” page in MLA, is an alphabetical list of sources that appears at the end of your paper.

**MLA Format Basics**

12 pt. Times New Roman font

double-spaced

1” margins

*Italicize* book titles

# Using In-text Citations

In-text citations are used in any sentence in which you have referenced, summarized, paraphrased, or quoted from another author or source. A basic citation contains the author’s last name and the page number where you got the information; the information is put in parenthesis at the end of your own sentence, but before the period.

One literary critic argues that *Pamela* is the most important novel ever written (Jones 5).

Mesmerism held “an ambiguous position in medicine and fiction in the nineteenth century,” because mesmeric demonstrations were open to a wide range of interpretations depending on the audience (Willis and Wynne 3).

If you use the author’s name in your sentence, put only the page number in the parentheses.

Smith claims that the cotton gin was the most important invention of the late eighteenth century (12).

If there are more than three authors use the abbreviation “et al.” in the citation; it’s an abbreviation of the Latin for “and others.”

Some experts recommend field testing for usability tests on mobile devices (Kaikkonen et al. 10).

If there is no author, use an abbreviated form of the title in place of the author’s last name. Use quotations for an abbreviated article (or other short work) and italics for an abbreviated book (or other “long” work).

There are just “too many ideological stumbling blocks in the gun control debate” (“Vitriol in Gun Control Debate” 2).

When you are using an eReader, such as a Kindle, use chapter or section numbers to indicate where to find material; don’t use eReader location numbers, because they vary from device to device.

# Creating a Works Cited Page

Common Abbreviations

ed. Editor; eds. Editors

ed. Edition

UP University Press

n.p. No publisher (for web sources)

n.d. No date (for web sources)

n. pag No page (for web sources)

To create your works cited page, first center the title (Works Cited) on the first line. Alphabetize the entries for your sources by the last name of the author; if there is more than one author, use the first one mentioned in the library catalog entry or on the title page. After the first line of each entry, indent subsequent lines.

A basic entry contains the author(s), title, source (journal, newspaper, etc.), publication information, and the medium of publication (usually “print” or “web”). The information you need to include depends on what kind of source you are using. See some of the most common types of entries you may need to create below.

## Book

Winter, Alison. *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain*. Chicago: U of Chicago P. 1998. Print.

## Edited Book

Smith, Elton E. and Robert Hass, eds. *The Haunted Mind: The Supernatural in Victorian Literature*. Lanaham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1999. Print.

## Article/Chapter in an Edited Book

Leighton, Mary Elizabeth. “Under the Influence: Crime and Hypnotic Fictions of the Fin-de-Siècle.” *Victorian Literary Mesmerism*. Willis Martin and Catherine Wynne, eds. Amsterdam, Netherlands: Rodopi, 2006. 203-222. Print.

## Journal Article

Arseneau, Mary. “Madeline, Mermaids, and Medusas in ‘The Eve of St. Agnes.’” *Papers on Language and Literature* 33.3 (1997): 227-43. Print.

## Electronic Sources

For electronic sources, use “Web” to indicate the medium of publication at the end of the entry, followed by the date you accessed the material. For material found through a library database, include the name of the database.

### Website

Provide as much information as you can about the website, including the author, website name, website sponsor/publisher, most recent date of website creation or update, medium of publication (Web), and your access date.

*AmericanRedCross.org*. The American Red Cross. 2013. Web. 8 Feb. 2013.

### Journal Article Accessed Online

Pittard, Christopher. “‘Cheap, Healthful Literature’: *The* *Strand Magazine*, Fictions of Crime, and Purified Reading Communities." *Victorian Periodicals Review* 40.1 (2007): 1-23. *Project Muse*. Web. 10 Nov. 2011.

### EBook

Designate what kind of eBook file you are using in the medium of publication spot in the entry.

Richardson, Samuel. *Pamela*. ed. Peter Sabor. London: Penguin, 2003. Kindle file.