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MLA Referencing Style

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MLA Referencing Style

What is it?

Academic writing requires the author to support their arguments with reference to other published work or experimental results/findings. A reference system will perform three essential tasks:

- Enable you to acknowledge other authors ideas (avoid plagiarism).
- Enable a reader to quickly locate the source of the material you refer to so they can consult it if they wish.
- Indicate to the reader the scope and depth of your research.

The Modern Language Association (MLA) style is a widely used referencing system to help you achieve these objectives.

How do I use the Style?

The MLA system involves two tasks:

- How you compile a list of reference sources at the end of your text (Reference list).
- How you refer to other authors in the body of your text (In Text Citation).

Below is a list of some common citation types along with examples of how they are laid out within the MLA Style guidelines.

Book with one author

Reference: Author last name, First name. *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example: McDonagh, Sean. *Why are we Deaf to the Cry of the Earth?* Veritas, 2001.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author Last name page)
- (Page no)

Example

- In another study (McDonagh 80)....
- McDonagh has discussed (80)....

Book with two or three authors

Reference: First author Last name, First name and next author(s) First name Last name. *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example: McLean, Bethany and Peter Elkind. *The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron*. Portfolio, 2004.

In-Text-Citation:

- (First author Last name and last author Last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Others highlight a different factor (McLean and Elkind 122)....
- Bethany and McLean (122) highlight....

Book with more than three authors

Reference: First Author Last name, First name et al. *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example: McGeady, Thomas et al. *Veterinary Embryology*. Blackwell, 2006.

In-Text-Citation:

- (First author Last name et al. Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- It has been suggested (McGeady et al. 155)....
- McGeady (155) suggests....

Book with a corporate author

Reference: Organisation name. *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example: Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. *Pedigree Sheep Breed Improvement Programme: Performance Results for Lambs Summer 2000*. Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, 2000.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Organisation name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Figures released (Dept. of Agriculture 25) at the time....
- Figures from the Department of Agriculture (25)....

Book with an editor

Reference: First editor's Last name, First name and next editor(s) First name Last name, ed(s). *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example: Booth, David, ed. *Rethinking Social Development: Theory, Research and Practice*. Longman, 1994.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Editor(s) Last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Another approach (Booth 55) shows....
- Booth (55) argues....

eBook

As a general rule an eBook should be cited as you would a print source but additional information such as the date accessed should be included. The format will differ depending on the file used. Ebooks include digital file such as Kindle and electronic versions of books available through the library databases. The bibliographic information should be used for the relevant entry (e.g. a chapter from a book).

Reference: Author's Last name, First name. *Title of eBook*. Publisher, Year of Publication. *Name of container/access platform*, location/link.

Example: Rawson, Michael. *Eden on the Charles: the making of Boston*. Massachusetts, Harvard UP, 2010. *ACLS Humanities E-book*, hdl.handle/net/2027/heh.30498.0001.001.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author Last name, ch.)
- (ch.)

Example:

- It is suggested that Boston would have been a very different city had there been no fire (Rawson).
- Michael Rawson suggests that Boston was a city that could have had a very different form, if the fire had not occurred (ch.2).

eReader

If page numbers are not available, avoid markers such as Kindle file location as these may not be consistent on all devices. Instead, use stable numbered sections such as chapters. If the eBook does not have any form of sections then the work must be cited as a whole within the text.

Reference: Author Last name, First name. *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication. Format.

Example: Rowley, Hazel. *Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage*. Kindle ed., Farrar, 2010..

In-Text-Citation:

(Author Last name, ch.)

(ch.)

Example:

The Roosevelts enjoyed a luxurious lifestyle but they were not ostentatious (Rowley, ch. 6).

Hazel Rowley notes that although the Roosevelts enjoyed a luxurious lifestyle, they were not ostentatious (ch.6).

Chapter in an edited book

Reference: Author(s) Last name, First name. "Title of chapter." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor(s) First name, Last name, Edition, Publisher, Year of Publication. Page range.

Example: Jonson, Ben. "To the Memory of My Beloved, the Author Mr. William Shakespeare." *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. Edited by Alexander Allison et al., 3rd Edition, New York Norton, 1983. 239-40.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author(s) Last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Another approach (Jonson 239)....
- Jonson (239) writes....

Print Journal article

Reference: First author(s) Last name, First name and next author(s) First name Last name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, vol. Volume, no., Year, pp. page range.

Example: Mann, Susan. "Myths of Asian Womanhood." *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 59, 2000, pp. 835-62.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author(s) Last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Another author (Mann 850) argues....
- Mann (850) argues....

E-journal article

Reference: First author's Last name, First name and next author(s) First name Last name. "Title of Article." *Journal Title*, vol. Volume, no. Issue, Year, pp. Page range. Database. Location/Link.

Example: Faris, Marc. "That Chicago Sound: Playing with (Local) Identity in Underground Rock." *Popular Music & Society*, vol. 27, 2004, pp. 429-454. Taylor & Francis Online.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0300776042000264658>.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author(s) Last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Exploring this topic (Faris 440)....
- Faris (440) highlights the role....

Print Newspaper article

Reference: Author's Last name, First name. "Article Title." *Newspaper Title*, Day Month Year of Publication, pp. Page number(s)..

Example: Gleeson, Jim. "Towards Holistic Approach to School Discipline." *Irish Times*, 10 Feb. 2006, p. 16.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author(s) last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example:

- Others (Gleeson 16) argue....
- Gleeson (16) argues....

Online Newspaper article

Reference: Author's Last name, First name. "Article Title." *Newspaper Title*, Day Month Year of Publication, pp. Page number(s). *Platform/Container*, Location/Link.

Example: Parker, George. "UK Promises no Return to 'Borders of the Past' in Ireland: Brexit Vote Aftermath." *Financial Times*, London, 26 July 2016, pp. 2+. *Proquest*, www.proquest.com/stable/1234567.

In-Text-Citation: (Author(s) last name)

Example: Others (Keenan) reported....

Page on a website

Reference: Author's Last name, First name (if available). "Article Title." Website Title. Publisher of Website, Day Month Year of Publication. Location/Link.

Example: MacBride, Elizabeth. "The super secret weapons of CEOs." BBC. *BBC*, 14 Sept. 2011, <http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20150714-the-secret-weapon-of-ceos>.

In-Text-Citation: Use first few words of the page title.

Example: The introspective nature of poetry may also... (The super secret weapons).

Website

Reference: Author's Last name, First name (if available). *Name of Site*, Day Month Year of resource creation (if available), Link/Location.

Example: Willett, Perry. *Victorian Women's Writers Project*, 16 May 2000, <http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/vwwp/welcome.do;jsessionid=8202171627546D086A23F5A0FDB3D508>.

In-Text-Citation: (Author Last name /Website name)

Example: According to another source (Willett)....

Blog

Reference: Author's Last name, First name (if available). "Posting Title." *Website/Blog Title*, Day Month Year of Publication, Location/Link.

Example: Lonergan, Patrick. "New Book on Irish Performance." *Scenes from the Bigger Picture*, 13 Feb. 2013, <https://patricklonergan.wordpress.com/2015/02/13/new-book-on-irish-performance/>.

In-Text-Citation: (Author(s) Last name)

Example: According to another source (Lonergan)....

Twitter

Reference: Twitter handle."Entire text of tweet." *Twitter*, Day Month Year, time, Location/link.

Example: @alaindebotton. "One kind of good book should leave you asking: how did the author know that about me?" *Twitter*, 27 Apr 2015, 5:51 p.m., <https://twitter.com/alaindebotton/status/582270329835393025>.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author Last name)

Example:

- In a recent tweet, Alain de Botton suggests that certain good books should prompt one to ask: "How did the author know that about me?"

- Often a good book will make the reader wonder: “How did the author know that about me?”
(de Botton)

Facebook

Reference: Poster Last Name, First Name (or User name). "Title of Post." Type of Post. *Facebook Page Owner*. Facebook, Date Posted, Location/Link.

Example: UCD Students' Union. "We support the call tonight to #Take200 vulnerable young people from devastating scenes in an at breaking-point Calais camp. This is happening, we have to act - #NotOnOurWatch." *Facebook Students' Union of Ireland*. Facebook, 3rd Nov. 2016, "https://www.facebook.com/plugins/2F10153784831161910."

In-Text-Citation:

- (Poster Last Name)

Example:

- Students lobby to help children stranded in the infamous Zoo camp at Calais (UCD Students' Union).

Email communication

Reference: Sender Last name, First name. "Subject Heading." Message to Recipient First Name Last Name, Day Month Year.

Example: Scott, Graham. "Re: Information Literacy." Received by Aisling Quinn, 14 Feb. 2005.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Sender Last name)

Example:

- Recent figures provided suggest that ... (Scott).
- In an email sent to the author, Graham Scott suggests that the figures....

Personal Interview

Reference: Interviewee(s) Last Name, First name. Personal Interview. Day Month Year of interview.

Example: Higgins, John. Personal Interview. 7 September 2010.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Interviewee(s) Last name)

Example: Additional figures provided (Higgins) prove....

Published Interview

If the interview is part of a publication, recording or programme, enclose the title of the interview, if any, in quotation marks; if the interview was published independently, italicize the title. If the interview is untitled use the descriptive label *Interview*, neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks. The interviewer's name may be added if known and pertinent to your paper. Conclude with the appropriate bibliographic information and format.

Reference: Interviewee Last name, First name. "Title of interview" (if any). *See REF for relevant format (book, film, newspaper etc.)*

Example: Hollinghurst, Alan. Interview by Pat Wheeler. *Contemporary British and Irish Fiction: An Introduction through Interviews*. Edited by Sharon Monteith, Jenny Newman and Pat Wheeler. Hodder, 2004. 71-86.

Example: Blanchett, Cate. "In Character with: Cate Blanchett." *Notes on a Scandal*. Dir. Richard Eyre. Fox Searchlight, 2006. DVD.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Interviewee Last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example:

- Kazuo Ishiguro has been described as viewing English subjects through a non-English lens (Hollinghurst 73).
- Alan Hollinghurst suggests that Ishiguro views English subjects through a non-English lens (73).

Government agency publication

Reference: Organisation name. *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example: Department of Health & Children, Ireland. *A Vision for Change: Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy*. Dublin Stationary Office, 2006.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Organisation name Page no)

- (Page no)

Example:

- Figures released (Dept. of Health & Children 25) at the time....
- Figures from the Department of Health & Children (25)....

Parliamentary and legal material

Reference: Jurisdiction. *Title*. Publisher, Year. Series no./Article.

Example: Ireland. *Equality, Integration, Disability and Human Rights* (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2011. The Stationery Office, 2011. S.I. No. 139/2011.

In-Text-Citation: (Short form of title)

Example: Legislation introduced at the time (Equality, Integration, Disability 2011)....

EU publications

Reference: EU Agency Name. *Title*. Publisher, Year of Publication.

Example: European Commission. *Making Globalisation Work for Everyone*. Luxembourg Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2003.

In-Text-Citation:

- (EU agency name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example

- Figures released (European Commission 11) at the time....
- European Commission figures (11) show....

Conferences

Reference: Author last name, First name. "Title of paper." *Title of published proceedings: Proceedings of Title of conference, Location, Date*. Edited by First name, Last name. Publisher, Date of publication, Type of Talk.

Example: Hoff, Annette. "Law and Landscape." *Land Sea and Home: Proceedings of a Conference on Viking Settlement, Cardiff, July 2001*. Edited by John Hines, Alan lane and Mark Redknap. Maney, 2004, Keynote Address.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author(s) Last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example:

- By separating Danish customary law from Canon law, a chronological progression in the organisation of agricultural practices can be determined (Hoff 433).
- Annette Hoff suggests that by separating Danish customary law ... (433).

Theses

Reference: Author Last name, First name. "Title." Degree statement, Degree-awarding body, Year.

Example: Allen, Sean. "The Social and Moral Fibre of Celtic Tiger Ireland." PhD thesis, University College Dublin, 2009.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Author Last name Page no)
- (Page no)

Example:

- As argued elsewhere (Allen 55)....
- Allen (55) disagrees with this....

Film

Reference: *Title*. Directed by First name Last name of director, Performance by Key Performers' First Name Last Name. Distributor, Release date.

Example: *A Street Cat Named Bob*. Directed by Roger Spottiswoode, Performed by Bob, Luke Treadaway and Ruta Gedmintas. Polygram, Sony, 2016.

In-Text-Citation:

- (Title of film)

Example: Spottiswoode's 2016 film (*A Street Cat Named Bob*) displayed how....

Note: If you want to highlight a key particular performer, start the citation with their name, then their title.

Gedmintas, Ruta, performer. *A Street Cat Named Bob*. Sony, 2016.

Television or Radio

Reference: "Title" episode or segment. *Title* of programme or series. Additional info. e.g. director/narrator/performer etc. Name of network. Call letters and city of local station (if any). Broadcast date.

Example: "The Villain." *Faulks on Fiction*. Narrated by Sebastian Faulks, BBC 2, 15 Jul., 2011.

In-Text-Citation:

("Title")

Example:

Faulks traces a trajectory from Richardson's *Lovelace* to recent examples such as Barbara Covett ("The Villain").

Note: If you are highlighting a particular contributor's work to the production, start the reference with their name.

Faulks, Sebastian, narrator. "The Villain." *Faulks on Fiction*. BBC 2, 15 Jul., 2011.

Group Assignment

Note: Form refers here to either hand-written material (MS for manuscript) or typed material (TS for typescript). Give the name and location of the library, research institution, or personal collection housing the material. The recommendations outlined below are based on the MLA guidelines for unpublished work.

Reference: First author Last name, First name, next author(s) First name Last name and Last author First name Last name. Title or description of the material. Date of composition. Form of the material. Location.

Example: O'Neill, Paul, Tara Haverty, Zoe Kavanagh and Brian King. *Gothic Fiction in the Victorian Era*. May 2010. TS. School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin.

In-Text-Citation:

- (First author Last name et al. Page No)
- (Page No)

Example:

- The coverage of the 1888 Whitechapel murders in the “Penny Press” may have inspired Stoker’s gothic creation (O’Neill et al. 3).
- As part of our group assignment we examined newspaper coverage of the infamous 1888 Whitechapel murders as a source for Stoker’s Dracula (3).



EndNote is a software application that allows researchers store and manage all references in one place. It is available via Software for U and the Library runs regular introductory and advanced training sessions.

- Users can record, store and manage references in hundreds of citation styles.
- Users can add references manually or search and download directly from online databases and library catalogues.
- EndNote Cite While You Write features allows users to insert citations easily and creates bibliographies automatically in Microsoft Word (and Apple's Pages '09 with EndNote version X2).

See [our guide](#) for more information about Library support for Endnote.¹

¹ <http://libguides.ucd.ie/endnote>