

MLA

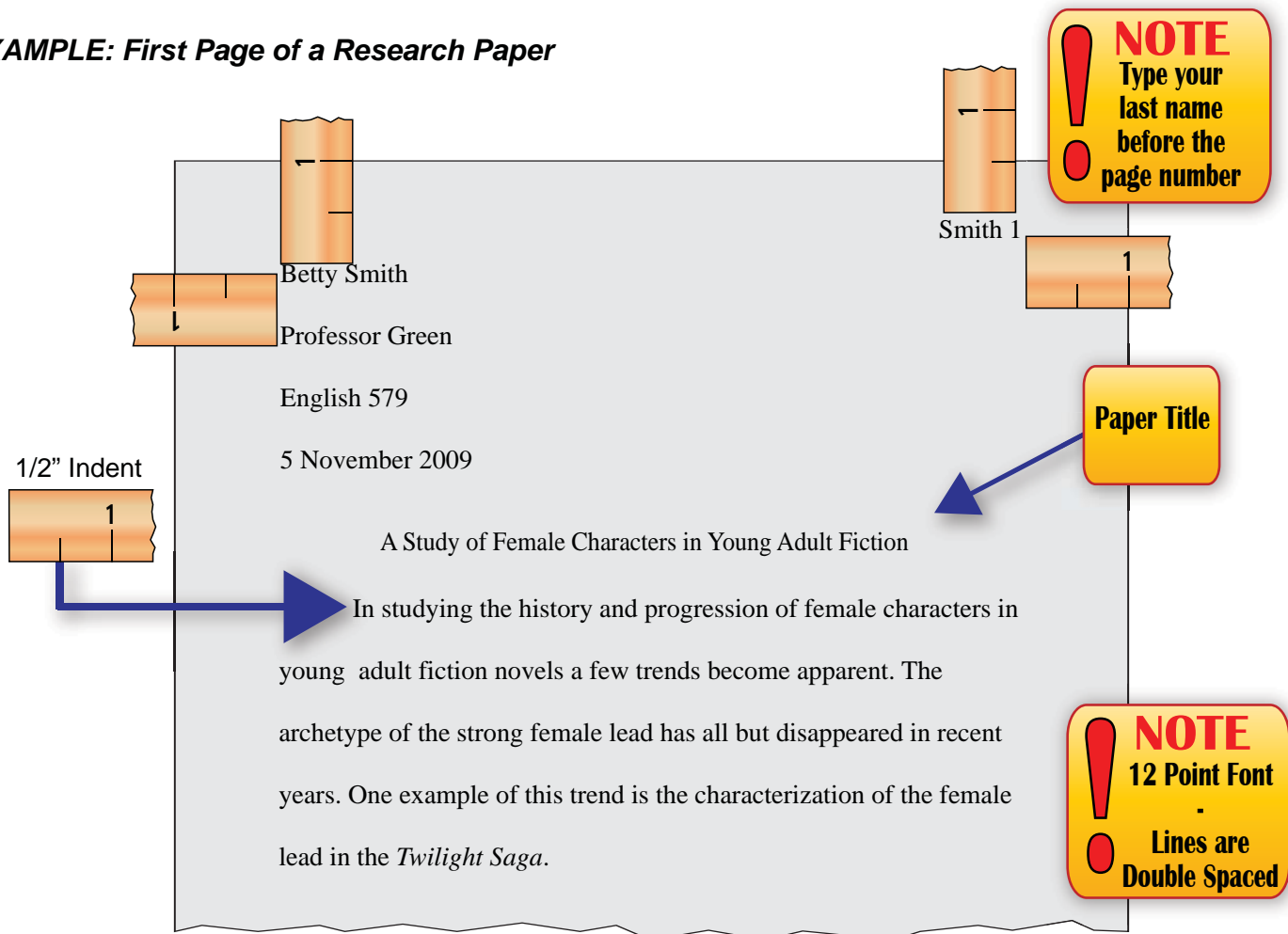
Quick Reference



The recommendations in this guide are based on the 7th edition (2009) of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. For more in-depth explanation of formatting and preparing works cited lists, please consult the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook*.

Page Layout (MLA 116-118)

EXAMPLE: First Page of a Research Paper



Italicized Titles (MLA 88)

Italicize the names of books, plays, poems published as books, pamphlets, periodicals (newspapers, magazines, journals), web sites, online databases, films, television and radio broadcasts, compact discs, audiocassettes, record albums, dance performances, operas and other long musical compositions (except those identified simply by form, number, and key), works of visual art, ships, aircraft, and spacecraft.

Titles in Quotation Marks (MLA 89-90)

Use quotation marks for the titles of articles, essays, stories, and poems published within larger works, chapters of books, pages in Web sites, individual episodes of television and radio broadcasts, and short musical compositions (e.g., songs). Also use quotation marks for unpublished works, such as lectures and speeches.

Italicize a title normally indicated by italics when it appears within a title enclosed in quotation marks.

Parenthetical Documentation (MLA 214-215)

Whenever you directly cite or paraphrase anyone else's words or ideas insert a brief parenthetical reference in your paper.

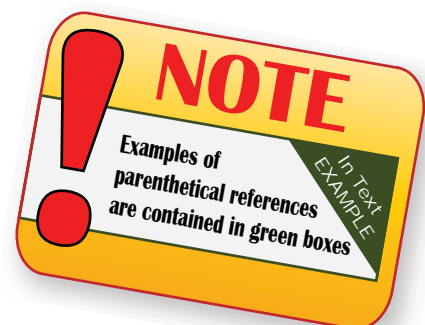
Use the author's last name and the page number of the reference to identify the source and location of the citation.

The third book in the series starts out where the second left off. Bella states, "With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me" (Meyer 1).

EXAMPLE

The parenthetical reference (Meyer 1) indicates that the quotation comes from page 1 of a work by Meyer.

The author's last name will lead the reader to the full publication information in the alphabetically arranged list of works cited.



Quotations (MLA 92-104)

If a quotation runs no more than four lines and requires no special emphasis, put it in quotation marks and incorporate it into the text.

If the author's name is given in the text or as a lead-in to the quotation, then include only the page number. If a quotation ends a sentence, place the sentence period after the reference.

Meyer describes Bella's feelings, "With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me" (1).

EXAMPLE

Without an introductory phrase, the author and page are placed together.

The third book in the series starts out where the second left off. Bella states, "With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me" (Meyer 1).

EXAMPLE

If a quotation extends to more than four lines when run into the text, set it off from your text by beginning a new line, indenting one inch from the left margin, and typing it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks. A colon generally introduces a quotation displayed this way.

At the conclusion of Meyer's *Eclipse*, Jacob receives a letter:

It was some heavy, stiff paper. Expensive. Too fancy for Forks. The card inside was the same, too done-up and formal. Bella'd had nothing to do with this. There was no sign of her personal taste in the layers of see-through, petal-printed pages. I'd bet she didn't like it at all. I didn't read the words, not even to see the date. I didn't care. There was a piece of the thick ivory paper folded in half with my name handwritten in black ink on the back. I didn't recognize the handwriting, but it was as fancy as the rest of it. (627)

EXAMPLE

NOTE**Indented Quotations**

The period is placed at the end of the sentence, **NOT** after the page number.

Applies to Indented Quotations **ONLY**

Shortened Quotes (MLA 97)

Whenever you wish to omit a word, a phrase, a sentence, or more from a quoted passage, use ellipsis points, or three spaced periods, to indicate that your quotation does not completely reproduce the original.

Meyer describes Bella's feelings, "With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me...I knew that we could expect no help—at this moment, his family was fighting for their lives just as surely as he was for ours" (1).

EXAMPLE

Works Cited List (MLA 126-130)

The list of works cited appears at the end of the paper on a new page and continues the page numbering of the text.

Center the title, Works Cited, an inch from the top of the page. Double-space between the title and the first entry. Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line or lines one-half inch from the left margin. Double space the entire list, both between and within entries.

Arrangement of Entries (MLA 131-133)

Entries in a works-cited list are arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name.

If two or more entries citing coauthors begin with the same name, alphabetize by the last names of the second authors listed.

If the author's name is unknown, alphabetize by the title, ignoring any initial A, An, or The or the equivalent in another language.

Example of a Works Cited List

NOTE
Double-space between title and first entry and within and between entries.

1/2" Indent

Works Cited

Smith 15

1

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2008.
Print.

Meyer, Stephanie. *Eclipse*. 1st ed. New York: Little, Brown and Company,
2007. Print.

Book Citation - General Format

Last name, First name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

Book by a Single Author (MLA 148-151)

Meyer, Stephanie. *Eclipse*. 1st ed. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2007. Print.

EXAMPLE

The third book in the series starts out where the second left off. Bella states, "With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me" (Meyer 1).

In Text
EXAMPLE

Two or More Books by the Same Author (MLA 133)

To cite two or more works by the same author, give the name in the first entry only. In all following entries, place three hyphens in place of the name.

Meyer, Stephanie. *Eclipse*. 1st ed. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2007. Print.

---. *Breaking Dawn*. 1st ed. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2008. Print.

EXAMPLE

Include a shortened title for the work you are referencing.

The third book in the series starts out where the second left off. Bella states, "With ice in my heart, I watched him prepare to defend me" (Meyer, *Eclipse* 1).

In Text
EXAMPLE

Book by Two or More Authors (MLA 154)

If there are two or more authors, list the authors according to the order of the names on the title page. Reverse only the name of the first author, add a comma, and give the other name or names in normal form.

Howe, Deborah, James Howe, and Alan Daniel. *Bunnacula: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery*. New York: Anthem, 1979. Print.

EXAMPLE

“Chester and I were unable to continue our conversation because a deafening crash commanded our attention” (Howe, Howe, and Daniel 10).

In Text
EXAMPLE

Book by Four or More Authors (MLA 155)

If there are more than three authors, you may name only the first and add *et al.* (“and others”), **OR** you may give all names in full in the order in which they appear on the title page.

Gagliano, Andrew, et al. *How to Build an Elevator*. Chicago: Construction Press, 2009. Print.

OR

Gagliano, Andrew, Ann Zielke, Emily Wagner, and Danielle Kerr. *How to Build an Elevator*. Chicago: Construction Press, 2009. Print.

EXAMPLE

Elevator installation is an involved and dangerous project that requires the knowledge of skilled, trained mechanics (Gagliano, et al. 26).

In Text
EXAMPLE

A Work in an Anthology or Collection (MLA 157-160)

Use this example for citing an essay in an anthology or edited collection as well as a chapter in a book.

Wagner, Leo. "How to Sell Tools." Trans. Sarah Wagner. *Sales: A Collection of Best Practices*. Ed. Ellen Lois. New York: Westosha Press, 2002. 102-122. Print.

EXAMPLE

An Article in a Reference Book (160-161)

"Vampire." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 11th ed. 2003. Print.

Allen, Anita L. "Abortion." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. Ed. Stephen G. Post. 3rd ed. Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan-Thomson, 2004. Print.

EXAMPLE

An Introduction, a Preface, a Foreword, or an Afterward (MLA 161-162)

Sevick, Gina. Foreward. *Surviving the College Experience*. By Margaret Wagner. Ed. Thomas Smith. New York: College Press, 1999. xv-xvi. Print.

EXAMPLE

An Anonymous Book (MLA 162)

If a book has no author's or editor's name on the title page, begin the entry with the title.

Alphabetize the entry by the title, ignoring any initial *A*, *An*, or *The*.

Basic History of Immigration. San Francisco: Migration Press, 2009. Print.

EXAMPLE

In a parenthetical reference to a work alphabetized by title in the list of works cited, the full title (if brief) or a shortened version precedes the page. When abbreviating the title, begin with the word by which it is alphabetized.

The development of nativist sentiment and the restrictive immigration laws that followed in the 19th century tell a complex story steeped in the fear of the unknown (*Basic History* 15).

In Text
EXAMPLE

A Translation (MLA 164)

Rover, Charles. *Orange Shoes*. Trans. Greg Spice. New York: Color Press, 2003. Print.

EXAMPLE

Edition Other Than First (MLA 167)

Gato, Grace. *How to Tie Your Shoes*. 3rd ed. Chicago: Footwear Press, 2005. Print.

EXAMPLE

Unpublished Dissertation (MLA 180)

Caballero, Sylvia. "How to Teach First Graders." Diss. U of Wisconsin, 2004. Print.

EXAMPLE

Published Dissertation (MLA 180-181)

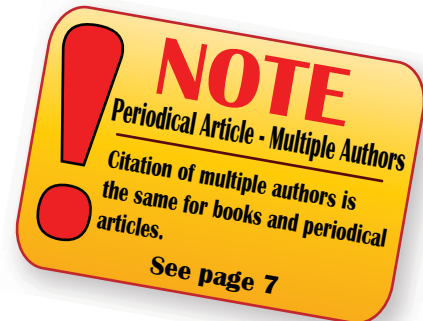
Stone, Charles. *Creating a Learning Environment*. Diss. U of Wisconsin, 2000. Madison:
University of Wisconsin Press, 2000. Print.

EXAMPLE

Print Periodical Citation - General Format

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages.

Medium of publication.



An Article in a Magazine (MLA 142)

Craven, Chris. "Vampires, Vampires, Vampires." *Vampire Magazine* 24 Jan. 2003: 24-34.

Print.

EXAMPLE

An Article in a Newspaper (MLA 141)

Trost, Kevin. "Creating Something Out of Nothing." *New York Times* 16 July 2008: C2. Print.

EXAMPLE

An Anonymous Article (MLA 145)

If no author's name is given for the article you are citing, begin the entry with the title. Ignore any initial *A*, *An*, or *The* when you alphabetize the entry.

"Children in the 21st Century." *Parents Weekly* 26 Feb. 2008: 12-14. Print.

EXAMPLE

An Article in a Scholarly Journal (MLA 137)

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume.Issue (Year): pages. Medium of publication.

Crate, Brice. "Queer Theory in English Literature." *Queer Theory Quarterly* 16.1 (2008): 134-164. Print.

EXAMPLE

Web Site (MLA 181-190)

Entire Web Site

Author(s). *Name of Site*. Name of sponsor or publisher, date of resource creation. Medium of publication.

Date of access.

If the publisher or sponsor of the site is not available use N.p.

If the date of the publication is not available use n.d.

If the author is unknown, put the name of the article or of the web site in the author position.

If you cannot find some of the information, cite what is available.

Caldwell, James. *Paper Airplanes.com*. Paper Airplanes, Inc., n.d. Web. 21 Aug. 2007.

EXAMPLE

Include in the text or at the end of the sentence the first item that appears in the Works Cited entry that corresponds to the citation.

If the document does not have page or paragraph numbers do not include them in the parenthetical citation.

Do not include URL's in text.

Page or article from a web site

Marks, Craig. "How to Build Paper Airplanes." *Paper Airplanes.com*. Paper Airplanes, Inc., n.d. Web. 21 Aug. 2007.

EXAMPLE

In "How to Build Paper Airplanes" Marks argues that making paper airplanes can be therapeutic.

OR

Some argue that making paper airplanes can be therapeutic (Marks).

In Text EXAMPLE

Article in an Online Database (MLA 192-193)

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume.Issue (Year): pages. *Title of the Database*.

Medium of Publication. Date of access.

Crate, Brice. "Queer Theory in English Literature." *Queer Theory Quarterly* 16.1 (2008): 134-164. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 5 July 2009.

EXAMPLE

- afterwards, in lists of works cited 8
- anonymous article, in lists of works cited 12
- anonymous book, in lists of works cited 9
- anthologies, works in 8
- articles, in an online database, in lists of works cited 14
- articles, periodicals
 - in lists of works cited
 - anonymous article 12
 - magazine 11
 - newspaper 11
 - scholarly journal article 12
- authors, in lists of works cited
 - four or more authors 7
 - one author 6
 - two or more authors 7
 - two or more books by the same author 6
- books, in lists of works cited
 - afterward 8
 - anonymous book 9
 - article in a reference book 8
 - book introduction 8
 - dissertations, published 10
 - dissertations, unpublished 10
 - editions 10
 - example of works cited list 5
 - foreward 8
 - four or more authors 7
 - preface 8
 - single author 6
 - translated book 9
 - two or more authors 7
 - two or more books by the same author 6
 - work in an anthology 8
- collections, works in 8
- dissertations, published
 - in lists of works cited 10
- dissertations, unpublished
 - in lists of works cited 10
- double-spacing 5
- editions, in lists of works cited
 - books 10
- electronic resources, in lists of works cited
 - web site 13
- forewards, in lists of works cited 8
- heading and title 1
- indentions 1,5
- introductions, in lists of works cited 8
- italicizing of titles of works 2
- magazine article, in lists of works cited 11
- margins 1
- newspaper article, in lists of works cited 11
- online database, articles in,
 - in lists of works cited 14
- page numbers 1
- parenthetical documentation 2
- prefaces, in lists of works cited 8
- print periodicals, in lists of works cited
 - anonymous article 12
 - article from magazine 11
 - article from newspaper 11
 - article in a scholarly journal 12
 - article in an online database 14
- quotation marks for titles 2
- quotations 3
- quotations, shortened 4
- reference book, article in lists of works cited 8
- research paper, first page example 1
- scholarly journal article, in lists of works cited 12
- text formatting 1
- titles, quotation marks 2
- translated works, in lists of works cited 9
- web site, in lists of works cited 13
- works cited, lists of
 - arrangement of entries 5
 - article from magazine 11
 - article in an online database 14
 - books
 - afterword 8
 - anonymous 9
 - article in a reference book 8
 - editions 10
 - example of citation 6
 - foreward 8
 - four or more authors 7
 - introductions 8
 - prefaces 8
 - single author 6
 - translated 9
 - two or more authors 7
 - two or more books by the same author 6
 - work in an anthology 8
 - dissertations, published 10
 - dissertations, unpublished 10
 - example of works cited list 5
 - print periodicals
 - anonymous article 12
 - article from newspaper 11
 - article in a scholarly journal 12
 - web site 13