

## MLA GUIDE

The following pages include information and samples that may be useful in preparing a research paper. This style is recommended by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA). The source is the 6th ed. of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers by Joseph Gibaldi (PN147. G53 2003).

### *THE WORKS CITED LIST*

Every book, article, Web site or source you use for your paper needs to be included in your Works Cited list. Arrange your sources alphabetically by author. If there is no author, alphabetize by the title, ignoring any initial *A*, *An*, or *The*.

The examples which follow are divided into categories. Following the examples-by-category, the same examples are reorganized in the correct order and format as they should appear when you submit your paper.

For complete information, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, noted above, or ask a librarian.

### *Examples by Category*

#### **Book: single author**

Blankenhorn, David. Fatherless America: Confronting Our Most Urgent Social Problem. New York: Basic, 1995.

#### **Books: same author**

Angelou, Maya. The Heart of a Woman. New York: Random, 1981.

---. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. New York: Random, 1969.

#### **Book: two or three authors**

Fagan, Richard R., Richard A. Brady, and Thomas J. O'Leary. Cubans in Exile: Disaffection and the Revolution. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1968.

**Book review**

Shaw, Steven A. "Happy Meal?" Rev. of Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser. Commentary May 2001: 78-80.

**Work within an anthology**

Chopin, Kate. "The Awakening." The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women. Ed. Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar. New York: Norton, 1985. 991-1102.

**Article in a familiar reference book (encyclopedia or dictionary)**

"Psychokinesis." Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia. 15th ed. 1991.

**Article in a less familiar reference book**

Stuntz, William J. "Search and Seizure." Encyclopedia of Crime & Justice. Ed. Joshua Dressler. 2nd ed. Vol. 4. New York: Gale, 2002. 1383-94. 4 vols.

**Article: Scholarly journal that pages each issue separately, more than three authors**

Elias, Maurice J., et al. "How to Launch a Social and Emotional Learning Program." Educational Leadership 54.8 (1997): 15-19.

**Article: Scholarly journal with continuous pagination**

Newman, Lance. "Thoreau's Natural Community and Utopian Socialism." American Literature 75 (2003): 515-544.

**Article: Popular Magazine**

Wilson, Jim. "NASA's Antigravity Machine." Popular Mechanics Dec. 1997: 44-45.

**Article: Newspaper**

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

**Editorial: Newspaper**

“Trouble with the Unions.” Editorial. Wall Street Journal 19 Nov. 1997: A22.

**Video**

Sense and Sensibility. Dir. Ang Lee. Perf. Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant. 1995.

Videocassette. Columbia TriStar, 1996.

**Electronic Text: Scholarly journal**

Maier, Susan E., and James R. West. “Drinking Patterns and Alcohol-Related Birth Defects.”

Alcohol Research & Health 25 (2001): 168-174. 26 July 2007

<<http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh25-3/168-174.pdf>>.

**Electronic Text: Part of a web site**

“Polar Bears.” Arctic Studies Center. 2002. Natl. Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian

Inst. 13 Nov. 2003 <[http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/polar\\_bear.html](http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/polar_bear.html)>.

**Electronic Text: Popular Magazine article from a Library Database (EBSCO)**

Conlin, Michelle, and Jessi Hempel. “UnMarried America.” Business Week 20 Oct. 2003: 106- .

Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Broome Community Coll. Lib., Binghamton, NY. 21

Aug. 2006 <<http://search.ebscohost.com>>.

**Electronic Text: Scholarly Journal article from a Library Database (General OneFile)**

Lachlan, Kenneth A., Stacy L. Smith, and Ron Tamborini. "Models for Aggressive Behavior:

The Attributes of Violent Characters in Popular Video Games." Communication Studies

56 (2005): 313-329. General OneFile. Gale. Broome Community Coll. Lib., Binghamton,

NY. 19 Feb. 2008 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com>>.

For more examples, go to <a href="http://www.mla.org/style_faq">http://www.mla.org/style_faq</a>
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The following Works Cited list is shown as it should look in its final form. Remember to start on a new page and double-space throughout.

#### Works Cited

Angelou, Maya. The Heart of a Woman. New York: Random, 1981.

---. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. New York: Random, 1969.

Blankenhorn, David. Fatherless America: Confronting Our Most Urgent Social Problem. New York: Basic, 1995.

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Alcohol Research & Health 25 (2001): 168-174. 26 July 2007

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Newman, Lance. "Thoreau's Natural Community and Utopian Socialism." American Literature

75 (2003): 515-544.

"Polar Bears." Arctic Studies Center. 2002. Natl. Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian

Inst. 13 Nov. 2003 <[http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/polar\\_bear.html](http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/polar_bear.html)>.

"Psychokinesis." Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia. 15th ed. 1991.

Sense and Sensibility. Dir. Ang Lee. Perf. Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant. 1995.

Videocassette. Columbia TriStar, 1996.

Shaw, Steven A. "Happy Meal?" Rev. of Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser. Commentary May

2001: 78-80.

Stuntz, William J. "Search and Seizure." Encyclopedia of Crime & Justice. Ed. Joshua Dressler.

2nd ed. Vol. 4. New York: Gale, 2002. 1383-94. 4 vols.

"Trouble with the Unions." Editorial. Wall Street Journal 19 Nov. 1997: A22.

Wilson, Jim. "NASA's Antigravity Machine." Popular Mechanics Dec. 1997: 44-45.

### **CITING SOURCES IN YOUR PAPER**

A writer must document quotations, paraphrases, summaries, information and ideas taken from others. Generally speaking, if you are referring to or quoting Peter Drucker's ideas taken from page 25 of his book or article, put (Drucker 25) at the end of the sentence or paragraph. Be sure that there is enough information in the parentheses to identify the exact source used. For example, you may need to distinguish between two titles by the same author. (Angelou, I Know 76).

For **lengthy quotations** (more than four typed lines), indent one inch from the left margin, double space the lines, do not use quotation marks, and cite as above, placing the parentheses after the final punctuation of the quote.

The United States is becoming an increasingly fatherless society. A generation ago, an American child could reasonably expect to grow up with his or her father. Today, an American child can reasonably expect not to. Fatherlessness is now approaching a rough parity with fatherhood as a defining feature of American childhood. (Blankenhorn 1)

When the **author's name is used** in your text, you may simply put the appropriate page number by itself in parentheses (25).

If you are citing a **source without an author**, give the full title (if brief) or a shortened version that includes the first word(s), *unless the title appears in your text*. Add the page number, if any. If your title is a book, underline your word(s) (World Almanac). If your title is an article, dictionary definition or encyclopedia entry, place quotations around your word(s) ("Trouble" A22).

With **two authors**, include both names (Maier and West 173).

With **three authors**, include all three names (Fagan, Brady, and O'Leary 52).

With **four or more authors**, use the first author and the abbreviation for "and others" (Elias et al. 17).

For **electronic sources**, include enough information in your text that directs readers to the correct entry in the works cited list. If your source does not have page numbering, you have to omit numbers from your parenthetical references ("Polar Bears").

### ***FORMATTING YOUR PAPER***

Set all margins at one inch. Indent the beginning of each paragraph one-half inch. Use a header with your last name and page number one-half inch from the top of the page. Double space throughout your paper, including your Works Cited list.

K. Pitcher  
November 13, 2003; rev. 2/19/08