



Walla Walla Community College...  
... Your Best Choice

## MLA CITATION STYLE

Library Hours  
WW Campus  
Mon.-Thu. 7:30a-7:30p  
Fri. 7:30a-4:30p  
Sat. Closed  
Sun. 1p-5p

Library Hours  
Clarkston Campus  
Mon.-Thu. 8a-6:30p  
Fri. 8a-4p  
Closed Weekends

Ask a Librarian  
EMAIL us at [reference@wwcc.edu](mailto:reference@wwcc.edu)  
Call us:  
WW: 509-527-4568  
Clk: 509-758-1714  
Drop by our Reference Desk.

Find Resources 24/7  
Chat with a Librarian  
On the Library Website:  
[www.wwcc.edu/library](http://www.wwcc.edu/library)

### Avoid Plagiarism

Plagiarism is, loosely defined, using someone else's ideas as your own. Most of us understand that taking an idea from someone, without giving credit, is cheating- and unethical. What we don't always consider is that most plagiarism at the student level is committed in error. We don't mean to plagiarize, but it happens because we don't plan carefully when doing our writing. The following tools can help you avoid plagiarizing:

- Keep a two to one ratio: two direct quotes or paraphrases per page
- Read passages over and over until you can explain it clearly to another person without looking at the page
- Write down the main idea from the passage on a piece of paper in your notes, then put the article away
- Don't keep the original with you when you write
- Record the citation information in your notes so you have it
- Reread your work
- Try reading to another person
- Work early and often on writing: Revise and edit
- Visit your Writing Center

### Elements of Your Paper

- Typed
- Double spaced- everywhere
- Printed on 8.5x11 inch paper, with 1 inch margins
- 12 Point Times New Roman Font- unless otherwise specified
- Page numbers and your last name on top right
- No title page (unless your instructor wants one)
- Works Cited page (your citations should be in MLA Format)

### In-Text Citations

When you reference something within the text of your paper, it is important to give the author credit within the text. In-text citations tell the reader where to look, on your references page, to find out how to access the information you paraphrased or quoted.

To Begin

- Note the author's last name
- Note the page number you are quoting from

### Example In-Text Citation

If you mention the author's name in the text, you can cite like this:

Esposito found that most citations were done fairly quickly, which led students to make mistakes (25).

If you don't mention the author's name in the text, cite like this:

Students who create citations quickly often make mistakes (Esposito 25).

If the author's name is unknown, cite the title of the work.

"Students who don't plan ahead often find the Works Cited page to be the hardest part of the writing process" ("Writing Research Papers" 2).

## The References Page

MLA has specific rules for citing books, articles, web resources, even interviews. The following is a brief guide for creating your Works Cited page.

### To Begin

- Works Cited list goes at the end of the paper
- Each citation (reference used) should have a hanging indent
- Alphabetize by author's last name
- Center the words **Works Cited** at the top of this page
- References are all double spaced
- For each source you must determine how it was published, i.e. Print, Web, DVD, Film
- Don't underline; use italics instead.



## Citation Samples

The following are some samples of how to format a citation using MLA 2009 Remember, these are simple samples. Please refer to handbooks or OWL Purdue to find more extensive advice on formatting complex citations.

### BOOK

Last name, First name. *Title of Work: Capitalize Every Main Word*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of publication.

#### Book Example

Cook, Blanche Wiesen. *Eleanor Roosevelt*. Vol. 1. New York: Viking, 1992. Print.

### ARTICLE:

Lastname, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, volume number.issue number (year): pages. Medium of publication.

#### Article Example

McGuire, John Thomas. "The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, vol 1: The Human Rights Years, 1945-1948." *Journal of American History*, 95.4 (2009): 1223-25. Print.

### ARTICLE FROM AN ONLINE DATABASE:

Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, volume number.issue number (year): pages. Subscription service. Date retrieved.

#### Article From An Online Database Example

Mart, Michelle. "Eleanor Roosevelt, Liberalism, and Israel." *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, 24.3 (2006): 58-89. Ebscohost. Web. 26 Oct. 2009.

### A PAGE ON A WEBSITE

Last name, First name. "Title of Page." *Title of Site*, Publisher, published date. Medium of publication. Date retrieved.

#### Page on a Website Example

United States Government. "Anna Eleanor Roosevelt." *Whitehouse.gov*, United States Government, n.d. Web. 26, Oct 2009.

### Important Abbreviations

MLA Citation Style uses abbreviations to mark things that are unknown about the resource.  
n.d.- no date; n.p.- no publisher or sponsor; n. pag.- no page