

Writing in MLA Format



*Two Locations: In the Lyman Beecher Brooks Library, First Floor
and Madison 109*

Tel: 757-823-2271

Email: writingcenter@nsu.edu

Website: nsu.edu/writing-center

In this workshop, you will learn how to correctly use MLA style, including the preparation of the Works Cited and conventions of MLA format.



Why use MLA style?

MLA is most often used in the humanities, including English and Foreign Languages.

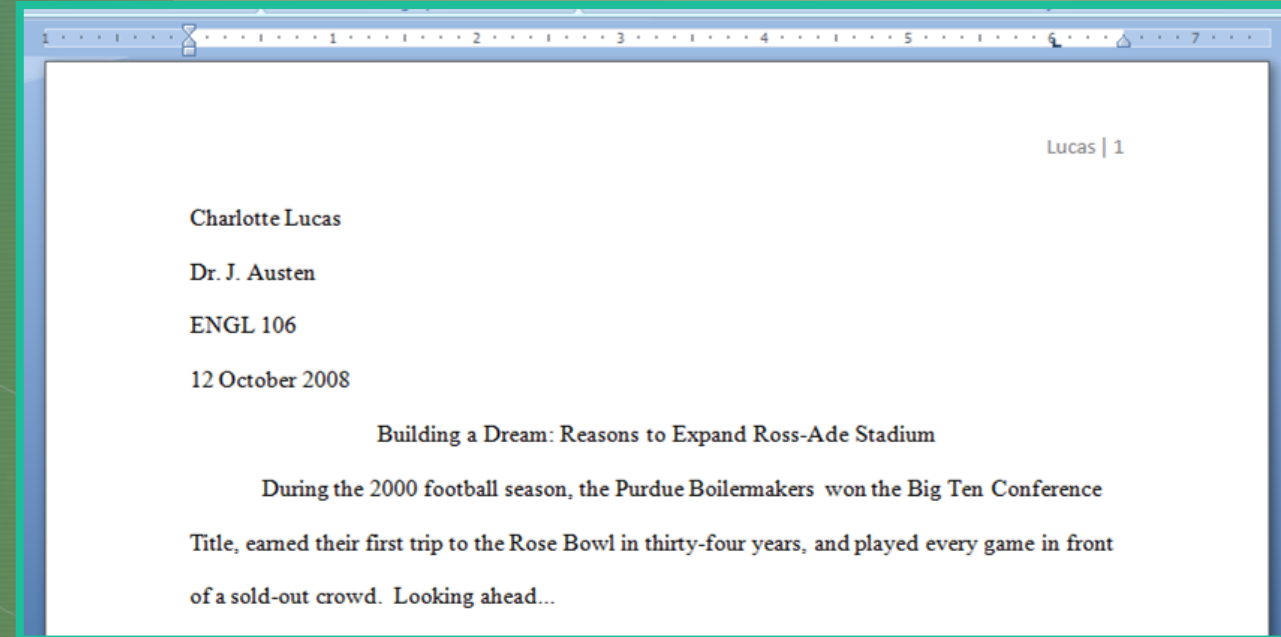
MLA's standards allows you as a writer to provide your readers—

- with cues; in other words where to find references for their own scholarly work.
- to focus more on your ideas by not distracting them with unfamiliar or complicated formatting.
- with confidence that you have established credibility (ethos)

Formatting Guidelines

An MLA style paper should:

- Be typed on white 8.5" x 11" paper
- Double-space everything
- Use 12 pt. Times New Roman (or similar) font
- Leave only one space after punctuation
- Set all margins to 1" on all sides
- Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch



Print and electronic sources

If the essay provides a signal phrase—usually the author’s last name—the citation does not need to include that information.

Examples:

Humans have been described by Kenneth Burke as “symbol-using animals” (3).

Humans have been described as “symbol-using animals” (Burke 3).

Electronic sources use the same format, but they won’t include page numbers.

Multiple Authors

If there are multiple authors, list them in the parenthetical citation or signal phrase in the order they were credited.

Marx and Engels described human history as marked by class struggles (79).

OR

Human history is defined by class struggles (Marx and Engels, 79).



CITING INDIRECT SOURCES

When citing an author who was cited by someone else

In-text example

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as “social service centers, and they don’t do that well” (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Lennon argued that all problems of the world could be solved if they were approached with love (qtd. in Starr 22). ✓

↑
to cite an indirect source

Sources with missing information

If missing an author: *We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily accessible climactic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).*

If missing page numbers: *Disability activism should work toward “creating a habitable space for all beings” (Garland-Thomson).*

Correct these in-text citations

In *The Poetics*, Aristotle argues that catharsis is a mix of “pity and fear” (Aristotle 27).

Repetitive

(27).

There is a sincere link between speech acts and bodily gestures, notably because “speech itself is a bodily act...with linguistic consequences” (Butler, pg. 4).

Comma, pg.

(Butler 4).

The postcolonial scholar Edward Said suggested that history has a means of pitting cultures against one another, and that “the rhetorical separation of cultures assured a murderous imperial conquest between them” which is “repeated again and again.” (38)

Punctuations

and that “the rhetorical separation of cultures assured a murderous imperial conquest between them” which is “repeated again and again” (38).

5:00

Collecting information for your works cited page

Each entry in the works cited page follows this order, followed by the punctuation marks shown here.

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 3 Title of container,
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location.

Sample Works Cited

- 12 Point Font (Times New Roman)
- One Inch Margins: Top, Bottom, Left, Right
- Double-spaced Entries

Last Name & Page
Number in Header

Smith 1

Works Cited

Entries in
Alphabetical
Order

Boyer, Holly, and Aimee Graham. "Hip Hop in the United States." *Reference & User Services*

Quarterly, vol. 55, no. 3, Spring 2016, pp. 215-218. *Academic Search Complete*,

hccproxy.lib.hawaii.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?dir

ect=true&db=a9h&AN=114060504&site=ehost-live. Accessed 23 June 2016.

Code, Larena. "Finding My Voice: A Hip Hop Music Curriculum for Students of Diverse

Backgrounds." *Illinois Music Educator*, vol. 76, no. 2, Winter 2015, pp. 41-42. *Academic*

Search Complete, hccproxy.lib.hawaii.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.

ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=110928918&site=ehost-live.

Accessed 23 June 2016.

Hanging
Indent

Eminem, artist, and Rihanna, featured artist. "Love the Way You Lie." *Recovery*, Aftermath

Records, 2010, www.eminem.com/lyrics/recovery/love-way-you-lie-feat-rihanna.

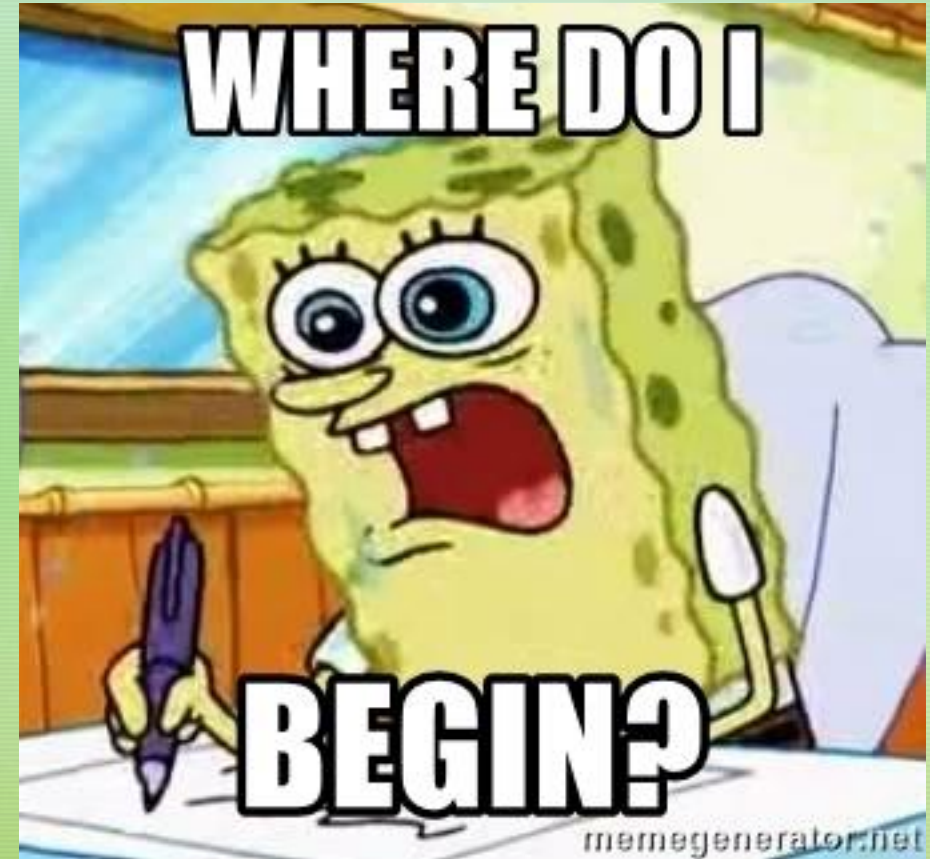
Accessed 23 June 2016.

Start each citation with:

Author

Begin with the author's last name, followed by a comma and the rest of the name. End this element with a period.

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.



Titles of sources



Books and websites should be in italics

Hollmichel, Stefanie. *So Many Books*. 2003-13,
somanymanybooksblog.com.

Linett, Maren Tova. *Modernism, Feminism, and
Jewishness*. Cambridge UP, 2007.

Titles of sources



and so should periodicals (academic journals, magazine, newspaper article)

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88.

Put the citation in the correct order

<i>Title of journal article:</i>	Behaviorism
<i>Author:</i>	George Graham
<i>Publication information:</i>	August 17, 2002
<i>Journal title:</i>	The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<i>Name of Editor:</i>	Edward N. Zalta
<i>Sponsoring organization:</i>	Center for the Study of Language and Information
<i>Publisher:</i>	Stanford University
<i>URL:</i>	http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2002/entries/behaviorism
<i>Date Accessed:</i>	March 31, 2003



5:00

The correct order

Graham, George. "Behaviorism." *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*,
Stanford University, 17 Aug. 2002,
<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2002/entries/behaviorism>.
Accessed 31 Mar. 2003.

Review

MLA is usually used by humanities courses like English, Cultural Studies, Foreign Languages, Comparative Literature.

MLA does not use a cover page and the information in the document is formatted in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced with one-inch margins all around.

Sources must be cited both in the Works Cited and with in-text citations.



Reflection

Workshop Evaluation
for students



Workshop Evaluation
for faculty



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