



Student Success Centre Writing Services



MLA 9th Edition

MLA format uses the name-page method. Using this method, you provide a short parenthetical reference in the text, and then you include that source (and all your sources) in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

The legend at the bottom of the page will help you figure out what kind of information should be included, and the order in which it should appear in your citations. Please note, the entries here are in colours to guide you – submit your work in black ink only.

This list is not comprehensive but does contain the most commonly occurring kinds of citations used in university. For more help, consult a Student Success writing tutor.

At the end of this document you will find a sample works cited list, and a sample MLA first page so that you can compare your work.

In-Text Citations:

Whenever you quote directly from, or refer to, a source in your work, you need to use an in-text citation. In-text citations consist of the author's last name followed by a page number that indicates where the material has been quoted from:

“The reaction in China to the end of World War I has been described by one historian as ‘popular rejoicing’” (MacMillan 332).

When the author's name is included in the text, you don't need to repeat that in the parenthetical citation:

The reaction in China to the end of World War I has been described by historian Margaret MacMillan as “popular rejoicing” – particularly among young people, who had an “uncritical admiration for Western democracy, Western liberal ideals, and Western learning” (332).

New for the 9th edition of MLA: If your document does not have page numbers, just use the author's last name. For example:

Excerpted from: Messenger, William E et al. *The Concise Canadian Writer's Handbook*, 3rd ed. London: Oxford University Press, 406-423. Updated to MLA 9th edition in January 2022.

Legend: Author Title Publication Information Electronic Source

“The reaction in China to the end of World War I has been described by one historian as ‘popular rejoicing’” (MacMillan).

These rules apply to both print and electronic sources of all types.

Kinds of In-Text Citations:

A Work by One or Two Authors (or Editors):

Include the last names of up to two authors or editors, and the page reference, without punctuation in between.

In the book’s introduction, the writers note that “newcomers to the prairies were beset by a seemingly endless series of unforgiving challenges” (Calder and Wardhaugh 11).

A Work by Three or More Authors (or Editors):

Include the last name of the first author or editor followed by “et al” (“and others”) and the page reference:

Messenger et al. advise readers that effective research requires more effort than simply searching for resources on the internet (383).

As we can see “good research requires evaluation and critical thinking skills” (Messenger et al. 338)

A Work by a Government Agency or a Corporate Author:

In place of the author’s last name (because it might not be available), use either the name of the group acting as the author.

Photos depicting life “at the front” often showed soldiers in the trenches performing domestic activities such as reading a newspaper, shaving, or sharing a meal (Canadian Field Comforts Commission 81-84).

A Work by an Anonymous Author:

In the situation where the author is anonymous, use a short version of the title in place of the author’s last name:

The most expensive white diamond ever bought at auction is “the 118.28-carat oval-cut gem that sold...for 30.6 million [USD] in 2013” (“Colors” 34)

Excerpted from: Messenger, William E et al. *The Concise Canadian Writer’s Handbook*, 3rd ed. London: Oxford University Press, 406-423. Updated to MLA 9th edition in January 2022.

Legend: Author Title Publication Information Electronic Source

In this example, “Colors” is short for “The Colors of Money,” the title of an unsigned magazine article.

An Online Document with No Page Numbers

If you are citing an online document and it does not have any numbered divisions (no page numbers, no paragraph numbers), include only the author’s last name in the citation.

The National Ballet of Canada’s recent production of *Swan Lake* was hailed as a “gorgeous, sumptuous feast for the eyes and ears” (Leung).

Building A Works Cited List

A list of works cited **appears on a separate page after your essay has ended** and includes the full publication information for all the works you have referenced.

Entries should be in **alphabetical order according to author last name**. When you have more than one entry by an author, list them in alphabetical order by title, and replace the author’s name with three hyphens (---) in all entries after the first:

Oatley, Keith. *Such Stuff as Dreams: The Psychology of Fiction*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

---. *The Passionate Muse: Exploring Emotion in Stories*. Oxford UP, 2012.

The second and any subsequent lines of an entry need to be indented one inch – this is called a hanging indent. See our sample works cited list at the end of this handout for an example.

Books with One Author:

Follow this Format:

Author’s last name, first name. *Title*. Name of Publisher, Year of Publication.

MacMillan, Margaret. *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World*. Random House, 2001.

Books with an Editor:

Calder, Allison, editor. *History, Literature and the Writing of the Canadian Prairies*. U of Manitoba Press, 2005

Books with Two Authors (or Editors):

Use the same as above, but use the second author's first name, then last name.

Calder, Allison and Robert Wardhaugh, editors. *History, Literature and the Writing of the Canadian Prairies*. U of Manitoba Press, 2005.

A Book by Three or More Authors (or Editors)

When you have 3 or more authors or editors, list only the first, followed by "et al." (Latin for "and others").

Messenger, William E., et al. *The Concise Canadian Writer's Handbook*. 3rd ed., Oxford UP, 2017.

A Book Accessed Online:

If you access a book online, follow the standard guidelines for citing the book, but include the DOI or URL that will direct the reader to the book. If you accessed the book through a library database, include the name of a database.

A DOI is a digital object identifier that often looks like a url (this is an example: <https://doi.org/10.1109/5.771073>) and stands in its place.

Grant, Jeannette A. *Through Evangeline's Country*. Boston: J Knight Publishing. Early Canadiana Online, eco.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.06344/3?r=0&S=1.

In this case, the book was made available through the Early Canadiana Online database, but other databases might be Project Muse, ProQuest, PubMed and so on.

A Work from an Anthology of Collected Works

If your source is an anthology with works by several different authors, you must **cite each work individually** by the author's last name. Be sure to include the page number or page range where the work can be found.

O'Brien, Tim. "The Things They Carried." *Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*, edited by Robert DiYanni, 6th ed., McGraw Hill, 2007, pp. 684-97.

A Book Chapter in an Edited Book

Sometimes editors will compile a collection of essays or articles into a book, which also usually contains an introduction by the editor. In these cases, you probably aren't reading the whole book, but just a chapter. To cite the chapter you read, follow these directions

Begin your entry with the name of the author of the chapter, article, or entry. The title of the chapter, article, or entry should be in quotation marks.

Cruikshank, Julie. "Oral History, Narrative Strategies and Native American Historiography". *The Canadian Oral History Reader*, edited by Kristina R. Llewellyn et al., McGill-Queen's UP, 2015, pp. 180-97.

A Journal Article

Journal articles are found in scholarly journals, and require a bit more information than books. Just using the title of the article (in quotation marks) isn't enough. You also need to include the title of the Journal (in italics).

Tease, Amy Woodbury. "Call and Answer: Muriel Spark and Media Culture." *Modern Fiction Studies*, vol. 62, no. 1, Spring 2016, pp 70-91.

In this case, the title of the journal article is in quotation marks, and the title of the journal is in italics. Be sure to include the volume and issue numbers. If they are available. In this example, the article is in volume 62, issue 1, which came out in 2016.

An Online Journal Article

A journal article that you retrieve online is cited in the same way, but you need to include the database where you found the article, and the DOI (digital object identifier) associated with it.

A database is where the journal is held electronically. You will normally have accessed a database through a link provided through the library, so ask a library staff member for help determining the database you used.

If there is no DOI associated with the article, use the URL.

Krotz, Sarah Wylie. "Place and Memory: Rethinking the Literary Map of Canada." *English Studies in Canada*, vol. 40, no 2-3, June-September 2014, pp 134-54. Project Muse, doi: 10.1353/esc.2014.0012.

In this case, this article published in *English Studies in Canada* was accessed through the Project Muse database, which has given the article this unique DOI.

Material from a Website

Try to include as much of the material as you can find in your citation. If there is no author, include the name of the organization that compiled the website.

Examples:

Leung, Wayne. "Review: Swan Lake (The National Ballet of Canada)." Mooney on Theatre, Megan Mooney, 9 March 2014.
www.mooneyontheatre.com/2014/03/03/review-swan-lake-the-national-ballet-of-canada/.

If the author or creator is not named, or if the author is a group whose name is also the name of the website, **begin with the title**.

"Our History". National Gallery of Canada, 2006. www.nationalgallery.ca. Accessed 20 July 2016.

Sample MLA Works Cited List

Dean, Cornelia. "Executive on a Mission: Saving the Planet." *The New York Times*, 22 May 2007, www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/science/earth/22ander.html?_r=0. Accessed 12 May 2016.

Website

Ebert, Roger. Review of *An Inconvenient Truth*, directed by Davis Guggenheim. *rogerebert.com*, 1 June 2006, www.rogerebert.com/reviews/an-inconvenient-truth-2006. Accessed 15 June 2016

Review

Gowdy, John. "Avoiding Self-organized Extinction: Toward a Co-evolutionary Economics of Sustainability." *International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2007, pp. 27-36.

Journal Article

An Inconvenient Truth. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, performances by Al Gore and Billy West, Paramount, 2006.

Film

Leroux, Marcel. *Global Warming: Myth Or Reality?: The Erring Ways of Climatology*. Springer, 2005.

Book

Milken, Michael, et al. "On Global Warming and Financial Imbalances." *New Perspectives Quarterly*, vol. 23, no. 4, 2006, p. 63.

Journal

Nordhaus, William D. "After Kyoto: Alternative Mechanisms to Control Global Warming." *American Economic Review*, vol. 96, no. 2, 2006, pp. 31-34.

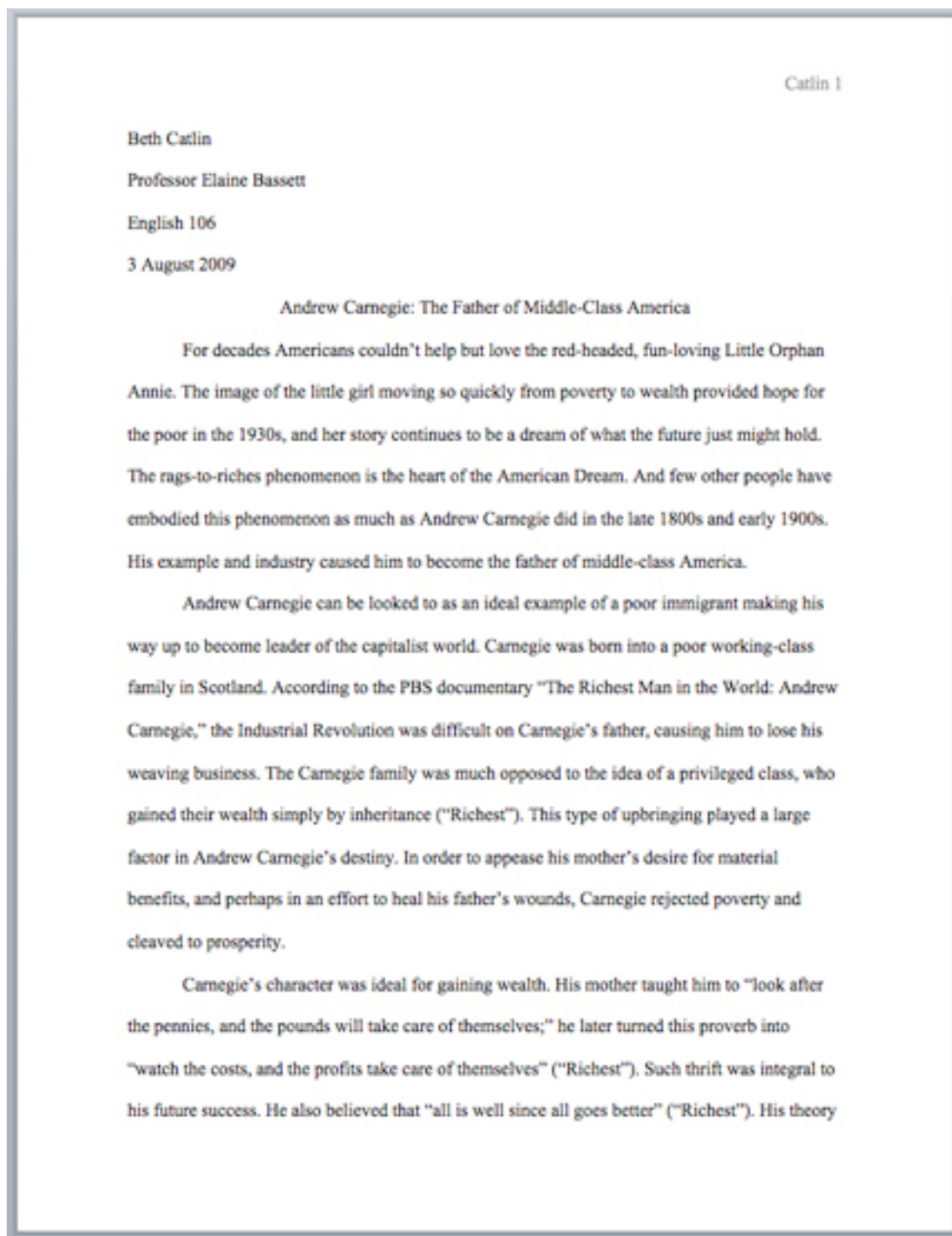
Journal

---. "Global Warming Economics." *Science*, vol. 294, no. 5545, 9 Nov. 2001, pp. 1283-84, DOI: 10.1126/science.1065007.

Electronic Journal

Formatting: A Sample First Page

Work should be double spaced and written in 12-point font. Name and course information appears at the top left, page numbers and your last name at the top right.



Excerpted from: Messenger, William E et al. *The Concise Canadian Writer's Handbook*, 3rd ed. London: Oxford University Press, 406-423. Updated to MLA 9th edition in January 2022.

Legend: Author Title Publication Information Electronic Source