# Citing Your Sources using MLA (Modern Language Association)

It is important to cite the sources you use when you write a paper. When you gather articles, websites, books, or other materials for your research, make sure that you also collect the "pieces" needed to properly cite the work. This guide outlines the basics of MLA (Modern Language Association), 6th edition documentation style. For more in-depth help or for other types of material (such as newspapers, interviews, govt. documents, etc…) refer to the websites listed below, or consult the ***MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers,*** 6th edition, in the library.

- **Duke Libraries** > Guide to Library Research: Assembling a List of Works Cited in Your Paper: www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/works_cited.htm

- **Purdue University** > OWL (Online Writing Lab) > Research and Documenting Sources: owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/

- **Wright State University's Writing Center Mini-Manuals**. These are quick reference guides available for printing in pdf (Adobe Acrobat format).
    - **MLA Mini Manual: www.wright.edu/academics/writingctr/mla2.pdf**

- Cites that link to multiple sources:
    - **Citation Guides for Internet and Electronic Sources:** www.library.ualberta.ca/guides/citation/
    - **Citation Style Guides, Auburn University:** www.lib.auburn.edu/citations.html

**Citations Within Your Research Paper:**
You must cite (give credit to) whatever quotes, ideas, or information you use in your paper. The MLA states that parenthetical references should be kept as brief as possible, giving only the information needed to identify a source (MLA Handbook, 6th edition, pp. 239-240).

Examples:

Author's name in your reference, without directly quoting:

**Booth has argued this point in the past (189).**

Author's name not used in your reference:

**This point has been argued in the past (Booth 189).**

Direct quotation:

**Booth states, "this is my finest hour" (189).**

**Format of the List of Works Cited:**

- MLA style requires that the list of works cited appears at the end of your paper. It begins on a new page and the pages are numbered, continuing from the text. If your research paper ends on page 3, then your list of works cited would be page 4.
- Unless otherwise specified by your professor, the page number appears in the upper right hand corner, half an inch from the top margin and flush with the right margin.
- Center the words Works Cited an inch from the top of the page.
- Begin each entry flush with the left margin and if an entry runs more than one line, indent each subsequent line 5 spaces (1/2 inch). This is called a hanging indent. The entire list should be double spaced throughout and in alphabetical order.

Name & Page number

1”

½”

Johnson 15

Works Cited

1”

1”

Brown, Erella. "The Lake of Seduction: Silence, Hysteria, and the Space Of Feminist Theatre." JTD: Journal of Theatre and Drama 2 (2004): 175-200.

Fleming, Thomas. Liberty: The American Revolution. New York: Viking, 1999.

**NOTE: MLA recommends underlining book and journal titles, although italicizing is an acceptable alternative.**

**Books:**

Author’s last name, First name. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication.

Fleming, Thomas. Liberty: The American Revolution. New York: Viking, 1999.

**Magazines that are published every week or two weeks, such as Time:**

Author’s last name, First name. “Article Title.” Magazine Title Publication Day Month Year: page numbers.

Smith, John. “How to Write the Perfect Paper.” Newsweek 06 February 2004: 14-26.

**Journal Articles in Paper:**

Author’s last name, First name. “Article Title.” Journal Title volume.issue (note: only include issue when journal is not continuously paginated throughout the year) (year): page numbers.

Brown, Erella. "The Lake of Seduction: Silence, Hysteria, and the Space of Feminist Theatre." JTD: Journal of Theatre and Drama 2 (2004): 175-200.

**Journal Articles from an Online Database:**

Author’s last name, First name. “Article Title.” Journal Title volume.issue if required (year): page numbers, if given or length of article. Name of Database. Name of library or consortium, City, State if useful. Date accessed <web address of database access site or search page>.

Holton, Woody. "The Ohio Indians and the Coming of the American Revolution in Virginia." The Journal of Southern History 63.3 (2003): 182, 8 p. Academic Search Premier. OhioLINK. 06 January 2004 <http://www.ohiolink.edu>.

**Websites:**

Author of website-individual, association, or company, if given. Title of Website. Date site was last updated. Group Responsible, if given. Date accessed. <web address>.

National Park Service. Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. 11 Feb. 2002. U.S. Department of the Interior. 13 Feb. 2004. <http://www.nps.gov/abli/>.