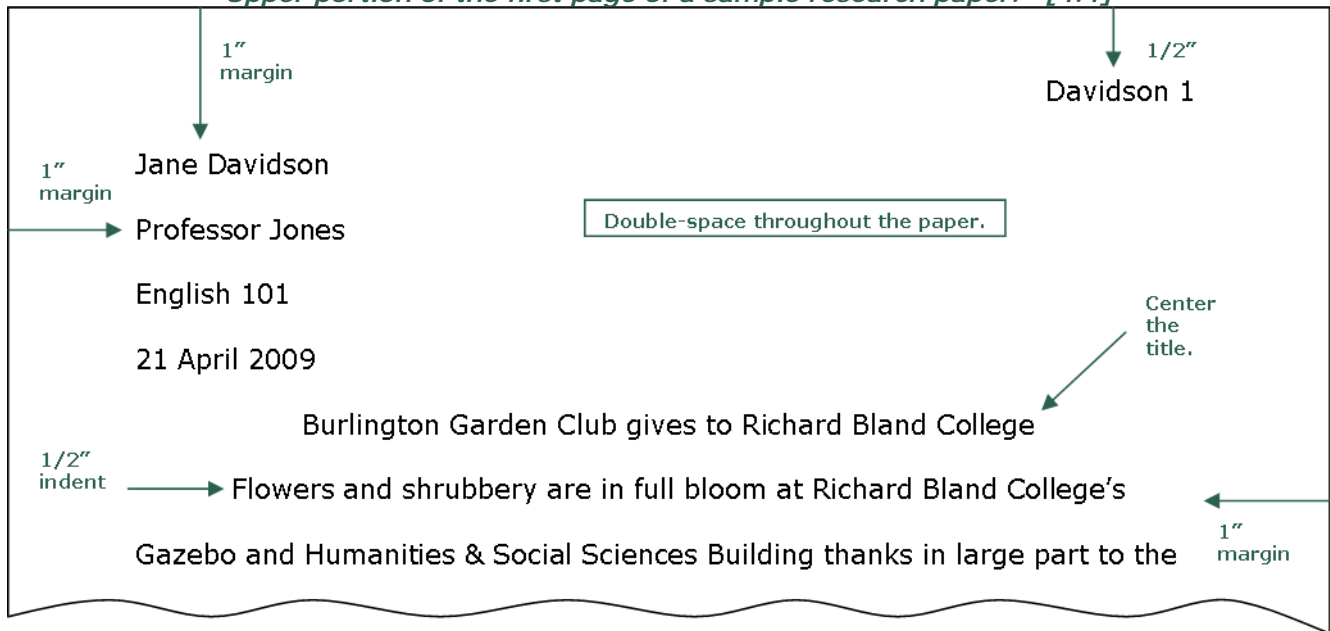


RBC Library  
**MLA Style Guide**

Revised May 2010

The following guide was developed to assist students with the MLA style guide. The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th ed.) is available on Reserve. Please consult the handbook for more information and examples.

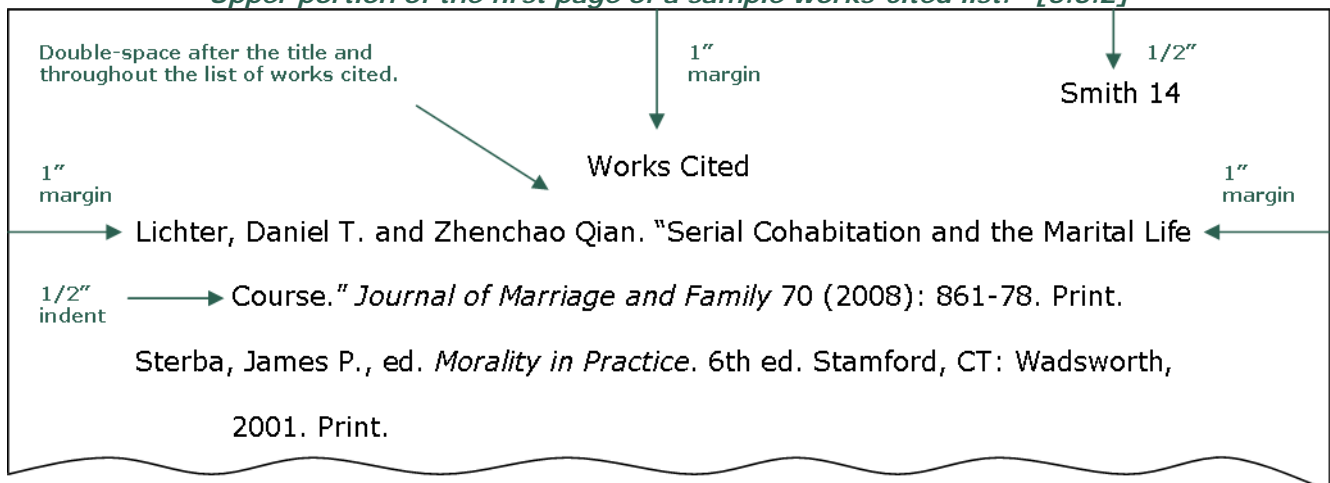
*Upper portion of the first page of a sample research paper. [4.4]*



**Creating a Works Cited List**

The list of works cited appears at the end of a research paper and includes full bibliographic entries for sources referred to within the paper. The works-cited list should appear in alphabetical order and be double-spaced with the heading Works Cited centered at the top of the page.

*Upper portion of the first page of a sample works-cited list. [5.3.2]*



**BOOKS — Basic Format:**

Author. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Medium.

**BOOK BY ONE AUTHOR:** [5.5.2]

Paglia, Camille. *Sexual Personae: Art and Decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1990. Print.

**BOOK (ANTHOLOGY OR COMPILATION) WITH AN EDITOR:** [5.5.3]

Sterba, James P., ed. *Morality in Practice*. 6th ed. Stamford, CT: Wadsworth, 2001. Print.

Use eds. **with multiple editors**.

**BOOK (SCHOLARLY EDITION) WITH AN AUTHOR & EDITOR:** [5.5.10]

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Ed. Matthew J. Bruccoli. New York: Cambridge UP, 1991. Print.

**When the editor's name is listed after the title, add Ed., which stands for "Edited by," before the name. Use Ed. whether there is one editor or more. In the case of translations, use Trans. which stands for "Translated by." Consult section 5.5.11 for more on translations.**

**BOOK BY TWO OR MORE AUTHORS:** [5.5.4]

Kerrigan, William, and Gordon Braden. *The Idea of the Renaissance*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1989. Print.

**If there are four or more authors, you have two options: (1) list all names in the order in which they appear on the title page, or (2) use the name of first author followed by et al. which is Latin for "and others."**

Roark, James L., Michael P. Johnson, Sarah Stage, and Alan Lawson. *The American Promise: A History of the United States to 1877*. Boston: Bedford, 1998. Print.

OR

Roark, James L., et al. *The American Promise: A History of the United States to 1877*. Boston: Bedford, 1998. Print.

**ANONYMOUS BOOK:** [5.5.9]

*New York Public Library Student's Desk Reference*. New York: Prentice, 1993. Print.

**DEFINITION OR ESSAY FROM A REFERENCE BOOK:** (e.g., dictionary, biography, encyclopedia): [5.5.7]

**(Note that there are three examples in this citation guide—two under this section and one under the next—which refer to *Novels for Students* and other such Gale ...for Students series.)**

**Inclusive page numbers are omitted if the reference book is arranged alphabetically. If you are using two or more volumes of a multivolume work, consult section 5.5.14.**

"Jabberwocky." *Poetry for Students*. Ed. Elizabeth Thomasan. Vol. 11. Detroit: Gale, 1998. Print.

**A reference citation should contain the author's name when the reference book entry is attributed to a specific author. Place the title of the reference book entry in quotation marks, but don't forget to italicize titles of books and plays.**

Miller, Tyrus. "Winesburg, Ohio." *Novels for Students*. Ed. Marie Rose Napierkowski. Vol. 4. Detroit: Gale, 1998. Print.

**When citing an article from a familiar reference book, do not include full publication information—only list edition number (if provided) and publication date. (In other words, when citing from a well-known reference source, exclude editor, publication place, and publisher.)**

"Plagiarism." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 10th ed. 1993. Print.

**REPRINTED WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY OR BOOK COLLECTION:** [5.5.6]

Booth, David. "The Role of the Storyteller—Sholem Aleichem and Elie Wiesel." *Judaism* 42 (1993): 298-312. Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Janet Witalc. Vol. 165. Detroit: Gale, 2003. 318-25. Print.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women: The Tradition in English*. Ed. Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar. 3rd ed. New York: Norton, 1985. Print. 351-735.

Castille, Philip Dubuison. "Dilsey's Easter Conversion in Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*." *Studies in the Novel* 24 (1992): 423-33. Rpt. in *Novels for Students*. Ed. Marie Rose Napierkowski. Vol. 4. Detroit: Gale, 1998. 313-17. Print.

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "Letter from Birmingham Jail." *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. Ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Nellie Y. McKay. New York: Norton, 1997. 1854-66. Print.

**ARTICLES — Basic Format:**

Author. "Title of the Article." *Name of the Periodical*. Publication Information. Medium.

**ARTICLE FROM A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL:** [5.4.2-3]

**If each issue of the journal is paged separately, be sure to include volume & issue numbers as in the first example. If there are four or more authors, you have two options: (1) list all names in the order in which they appear in the article, or (2) use the name of the first author followed by et al., which is Latin for "and others." (See BOOK BY TWO OR MORE AUTHORS above for more on formatting citations with multiple authors.)**

Barthelme, Frederick. "Architecture." *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3-4 (1981): 77-80. Print.

Lichter, Daniel T., and Zhenchao Qian. "Serial Cohabitation and the Marital Life Course." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 70 (2008): 861-78. Print.

**ARTICLE FROM A NEWSPAPER:** [5.4.5]

**Write out/abbreviate months as follows:** Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sep., Oct., Nov., and Dec. **Do not include volume and/or issue numbers even if available. If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, list the first page number followed immediately by a plus sign.**

Scarborough, Jay. "Dinwiddie Launches Notification System." *Progress-Index* 22 July 2009: A1+. Print.

Stelter, Brian. "A Dispute over Obama's Birth Lives On in the Media." *New York Times* 25 July 2009, late ed.: B2. Print.

**ARTICLE FROM A MAGAZINE:** [5.4.6]

**Write out/abbreviate months as follows:** Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sep., Oct., Nov., and Dec. **Do not include volume and/or issue numbers even if available. If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, list the first page number followed immediately by a plus sign.**

Colapinto, John. "Enter Laughing: Senator Franken's Long Journey." *New Yorker* 20 July 2009: 28-34. Print.

Robb, Amanda. "Siblings of a Sort." *Good Housekeeping* Mar. 2009: 138+. Print.

**EDITORIAL:** [5.4.10]

**Use the appropriate (magazine, journal or newspaper) citation format for your periodical, but add the label Editorial followed by a period after the article title.**

Brooks, David. "No Size Fits All." Editorial. *New York Times* 17 July 2009, late ed.: A23. Print.

**AUDIOVISUAL AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

**VIDEO RECORDING:** [5.7.3]

**A video entry generally begins with the title (italicized) and includes the director, original release date (if relevant), distributor, date of distribution and medium (DVD, Videocassette). If deemed pertinent, data such as the names of the writer, performers and producers may be included after the title. If highlighting the contribution of a particular individual, begin the citation with that person's name.**

*Chimps: So Like Us*. Dir. Karen Goodman and Kirk Simon. Perf. Jane Goodall. 1990. Direct Cinema. 1991.

Videocassette.

*An Inconvenient Truth*. Dir. Davis Guggenheim. Perf. Al Gore. Paramount, 2006. DVD.

Zeffirelli, Franco, dir. *Hamlet*. By William Shakespeare. Perf. Mel Gibson, Glenn Close and Helena Bonham-Carter. 1990. Warner, 2004. DVD.

**SOUND RECORDING:** [5.7.2]

Beethoven, Ludwig van. *Symphony No. 9*. Berliner Philharmoniker. Cond. Herbert von Karajan. 1963.

Deutsche Grammophon, 2003. CD.

Lawlor, Peter, narr. *Three Cups of Tea*. By Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Tantor, 2006. CD.

Marley, Bob. "Redemption Song." *Legend: The Best of Bob Marley and the Wailers*. Island, 1984. CD.

**INTERVIEW:** [5.7.7]

Blackmun, Harry. Interview by Ted Koppel and Nina Totenberg. *Nightline*. ABC. WABC, New York. 5

Apr. 1994. Television.

McNeer, James B. Personal interview. 22 Mar. 2009.

**CITING WEB PUBLICATIONS**

**"You should include a URL as supplementary information only when the reader probably cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it. If you present a URL, give it immediately following the date of access, a period and a space. Enclose the URL in angle brackets, and conclude with a period. If a URL must be divided between two lines, break it only**

after the double slashes or a single slash; do not introduce a hyphen at the break or allow your word-processing program to do so." [5.6.1]

**PERIODICAL PUBLICATION FROM A LIBRARY-PROVIDED ONLINE DATABASE:** [5.6.4]

Use n. pag. if pagination is not provided as in the article by Lazo.

Booth, David. "The Role of the Storyteller—Sholem Aleichem and Elie Wiesel." *Judaism* 42 (1993): 298-312.

Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Janet Witalec. Vol. 165. Detroit: Gale, 2003. 318-25.

*Literature Resources from Gale*. Web. 24 July 2009.

Lazo, Luz. "Ground Broken for Building at Richard Bland College." *Richmond Times-Dispatch* 7 June 2009:

n. pag. *Newspaper Source Plus*. Web. 24 July 2009.

Lichter, Daniel T., and Zhenchao Qian. "Serial Cohabitation and the Marital Life Course." *Journal of*

*Marriage and Family* 70 (2008): 861-78. *Wiley Interscience*. Web. 24 July 2009.

**WEB SITE OR WEB PAGE WITHOUT PRINT PUBLICATION DATA:** [5.6.2b]

Include the following if available: author's name; title of Web site component in quotation marks; title of overall Web site in italics; version/edition used; publisher/sponsor of the site or, if not provided, N.p.; publication date or, if not provided, n.d.; medium (Web); and access date.

Clayborne, Carson. "About Martin Luther King, Jr." *The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education*

*Institute*. Stanford U, n.d. Web. 23 July 2009.

"Grenada." *The World Factbook*. Central Intelligence Agency, 6 July 2009. Web. 23 July 2009.

Hamid, Sarah, and Jack Raymond Baker. "Writing a Research Paper." *The OWL at Purdue*. Purdue U Online

Writing Lab, 14 Apr. 2009. Web. 24 July 2009.

*Richard Bland: Virginia Statesman and Champion of Public Rights*. Richard Bland Coll. Lib., 31 July 2008.

Web. 24 July 2009.

"The Scientists Speak." Editorial. *New York Times*. New York Times, 20 Nov. 2007. Web. 24 July 2009.

Tyre, Peg. "Standardized Tests in College?" *Newsweek*. Newsweek, 16 Nov. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

**WORK (SUCH AS AN ONLINE BOOK) WITH PRINT PUBLICATION DATA:** [5.6.2c]

Use the format for citing books but omit mention of the original medium (Print). Conclude the citation with the title of the database or Web site in italics, medium (Web), and access date.

Wharton, Edith. *The Age of Innocence*. New York: Appleton, 1920. *Bartleby.com*. Web. 24 July 2009.

Whitley, Bernard E., and Patricia Keith-Spiegel. *Academic Dishonesty: An Educator's Guide*. Mahwah, NJ:

Erlbaum, 1998. *netLibrary*. Web. 15 Nov. 2004.

<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>
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**TWO OR MORE WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR(S):** [5.3.4-5]

When the author portion of more than one citation is a match, the names of the author may be replaced with three hyphens in subsequent entries. The three hyphens must stand for the same names in the same order.

Brooks, Cleanth. *William Faulkner: First Encounters*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1983. Print.

---. *William Faulkner: Toward Yoknapatawpha and Beyond*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1978. Print.

Brooks, Cleanth, and Robert Penn Warren. *Modern Rhetoric*. 2nd ed. New York: Harcourt, 1958. Print.

---, eds. *Understanding Poetry*. 3rd ed. New York: Holt, 1960. Print.

#### **ABBREVIATION OF PUBLISHERS' NAMES:** [7.5]

**You may use shortened forms of publishers' names in the list of works cited. Articles (*A, An, The*) may be omitted along with business abbreviations (*Co., Corp., Inc., Ltd.*) and descriptive words (*Books, House, Press, Publishers*). A university press uses the abbreviations *U* and *P*. If a publisher's name is comprised of the name of one person, only the surname is needed. If a publisher's name includes more than one person, only the first surname is needed.**

Ex: Use Harcourt for Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; Cambridge UP for Cambridge University Press; Norton for W.W. Norton and Co., Inc.; Prentice for Prentice-Hall; U of Chicago P for University of Chicago Press; Wiley for John Wiley & Sons.

#### **A BOOK PUBLISHED BEFORE 1900:** [5.5.23]

**You may omit the publisher when citing books published prior to 1900. Instead of a colon, use a comma after the place of publication.**

Cooke, John Esten. *Stonewall Jackson: A Military Biography*. New York, 1866. Print.

### **PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION**

**Parenthetical documentation refers to the brief acknowledgement of sources within a research paper. Generally, parenthetical documentation includes the author's last name followed by a page reference.**

#### **Sample Parenthetical References** [6.1-6.4]

##### **Direct quote—author's name in reference:**

"Miss Emily turns out to be not a Southern lady; she is a Clytemnestra, a figure out of tragedy" (Brooks 161).

##### **Direct quote—author's name in text:**

Brooks explains that "Miss Emily turns out to be not a Southern lady; instead, she is a Clytemnestra, a figure out of tragedy" (161).

##### **Paraphrasing—author's name in reference:**

Miss Emily and her madness are likened to the tragic character of Clytemnestra (Brooks 161).

##### **Paraphrasing—author's name in text:**

Brooks likens Miss Emily and her madness to the tragic character of Clytemnestra (161).

##### **Corresponding entry in the lists of works cited:**

Brooks, Cleanth. *William Faulkner: Toward Yoknapatawpha and Beyond*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1978. Print.

## MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES FOR PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES

**If you are citing a work with no author or editor**, incorporate the title of the work into the reference. Use the complete title if brief; otherwise, use an abbreviated version. Provide enough of the title so that it can be easily located in the works cited. [6.4.4]

Ex: Fifty-three percent of Grenada's population is Roman Catholic ("Grenada").

From: "Grenada." *The World Factbook*. Central Intelligence Agency, 6 July 2009. Web. 23 July 2009.

**If your works-cited list includes two or more works by the same author**, you must include the title (or part of the title) in the parenthetical reference. If the author's name is given in the text, only the title and page number(s) are necessary. [6.4.6]

Ex: (Dickens, *Oliver Twist* 30) and (Dickens, *David Copperfield* 47).

**If your works-cited list has two authors with the same last name**, include their first initials. Write out full first names if initials are identical. [6.2]

Ex: (C. Bronte 20) and (E. Bronte 99-100)

**What happens when the work you are citing references another work?** If you are quoting or paraphrasing a quotation from a secondhand (or indirect) source, put the abbreviation *qtd. in* ("quoted in") before the indirect source you cite in your parenthetical reference. The corresponding works cited entry is for the actual source you used. [6.4.7]

Ex: In an interview with Cynthia Grenier, Faulkner refers to himself as a "failed poet" (qtd. in Brooks 55).

From: Brooks, Cleanth. *William Faulkner: Toward Yoknapatawpha and Beyond*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1978.

**When a quotation runs to more than four typed lines**, set it off from the text by beginning the quotation on a new line and by indenting the entire quotation one inch (or ten spaces) from the left margin. The quotation should be double-spaced. Do not add quotation marks. Place the parenthetical reference after the period of the last sentence of the quotation; leave a space between the period and the parenthetical reference. [3.7.2]

**When eliminating words in a direct quote**, use an ellipsis [ . . . ]. An ellipsis that completes a sentence should contain four periods [ . . . .]. [3.7.5]

**When citing a play**, use act, scene & line numbers—in that order and separated by periods—rather than page numbers. [6.4.8]

Ex: (*Ham.* 5.4.27-32) for *Hamlet*, Act 5, Scene 4, Lines 27-32

**You may abbreviate the titles of literary and religious works.** It is usually best to introduce an abbreviation in parentheses immediately after the first use of the full title in the text. [7.7]

Ex: " In *All's Well That Ends Well* (*AWW*), Shakespeare. . . ."

For abbreviations commonly used, see Bible—7.7.1, Shakespeare—7.7.2, Chaucer—7.7.3, and other literary works—7.7.4.