MLA Style Citations of Print Sources

The information in this handout, taken from MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing (3rd Edition, 2008), covers many of the cases in your research papers in which you'll need to give credit to sources.

In The Body of Your Paper (In-Text):

- When you omit the author’s name in your sentence:
  One researcher has found that dreams move backward in time as the night progresses (Dement 71).

- When you mention the author’s name in your sentence:
  Freud states that "a dream is the fulfillment of a wish" (154).

- When you cite more than one work by the same author:
  One current theory emphasizes the principle that dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes, Sleep 184).

- When the work has two or three authors:
  Psychologists hold that no two children are alike (Gesell and Ironson 68).

- When the work has no author, begin with the word by which the title is alphabetized in the Works Cited:
  Random testing for use of steroids by athletes is facing strong opposition by owners of several of these teams ("Steroids" 22).

For cases not covered, see MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing

In Your Works Cited List:

Double-space all entries and list in alphabetical order by first word of each citation. Generally, an entry has three main divisions--author, title, and publication information--each followed by a period and two spaces. Indent the 2nd line (and all following lines).

Books

- One author

- Two or three authors

- Four or more authors

- Corporate author

- Article from a reference book

- Government publication
No author named

Work with more than one volume

Work with an editor

Essay in a collection of essays (work in an anthology)

Second or later edition

Two or more books by the same person


Two or more articles from the same collection: cite the individual articles and the collection itself


Newspapers, Magazines, Journals and Other Sources

Article in a scholarly journal

Weekly, biweekly, or monthly magazine

Article in a newspaper

Editorial

Anonymous article

Media

Film or Video Recording

Radio or television program