

MLA STYLE FOR CITING MEDIA SOURCES: A BRIEF GUIDE

The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition, 2009, is the standard guide for college students to the documentation style of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The following information is based on the *Handbook*. Consult the full *Handbook* (at the reference desk, 808.02 M685 2009) for specific citation types not included here. **ALSO: The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University has created a very good online guide (with many examples) to the MLA style. You can access it at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.**

Parenthetical Citation in Text

In the text of your paper you must document sources from which you are quoting or paraphrasing using brief parenthetical citations that correspond to your alphabetical list of works cited at the end of the paper, for example:

His famed oratory influenced the nation on the emancipation of slaves (“Frederick Douglass”). This parenthetical citation tells the reader the source of the information and if the reader wants more information about this source, he/she can turn to the works cited list, where a complete citation for this title will be found.

Since media sources such as films, television recordings, and performances do not have page numbers or the same types of identifying characteristics that books and periodicals do, the *Handbook* recommends that it is usually preferable to include the source information in the text, rather than in a parenthetical reference, for example: The “Frederick Douglass” episode of A&E’s *Civil War Journal* explores how his famed oratory influenced the nation.

The Works Cited List

The list of works cited appears at the end of the paper. Center the title, Works Cited, an inch from the top of the page. Double-space between the title and the first entry. Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line or lines one-half inch from the left margin.

The examples below are single spaced to save room, but entries on a Works Cited list must be **double spaced**.

Citing a Film:

Format	<i>Title of Film</i> . Dir. First Name Last Name. Writ., Perf., Prod. [in order of billing, if relevant]. Distributor, Year of Release. Medium.
Examples	<i>It’s a Wonderful Life</i> . Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946. Film. Chaplin, Charles, dir. <i>Modern Times</i> . Perf. Chaplin and Paulette Goddard. United Artists, 1936. Film.

Note: If you are citing the contribution of a particular individual, begin with that person’s name, see Chaplin example.

Citing a Videocassette or DVD Recording:

Format	<i>Title of Video or DVD</i> . Dir. First Name Last Name. Writ., Perf., Prod. [in order of billing, if relevant]. Year of Release [if relevant]. Distributor, Year of Distribution. Medium.
Example	<i>It’s a Wonderful Life</i> . Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. 1946. Republic, 2001. DVD.

Citing a Television or Radio Program:

Format	“Title of Episode [if any].” <i>Title of Program OR Title of Series</i> [if any]. Name of the Network. Call Letters, City of the Local Station [if any]. Day Month year of broadcast. Medium.
Examples	“Security in Mumbai: An Impossible Task.” Narr. Philip Reeves. <i>Weekend Edition Sunday</i> . Natl. Public Radio. KPCC, Pasadena. 30 Nov. 2008. Radio. “Frederick Douglass.” <i>Civil War Journal</i> . Narr. Danny Glover. Dir. Craig Haffner. Arts and Entertainment Network. 6 Apr. 1993. Television.

Note: Include any other relevant information (e.g., director, narrator, writer, performers) as shown in the examples. If the information applies only to a specific episode, place it after the title of the episode (see first example where only this episode is narrated by Philip Reeves). If the information applies to the entire program, place it after the title of the program (see last example for which the narrator and director apply to all episodes, not just the one on Douglass).

Citing a Recorded Television Program:

Format	“Title of Episode [if any].” <i>Title of Series</i> . Writ. First Name Last Name. Dir. First Name Last Name. Network Name [abbreviated]. Day Month year of original broadcast. Distributor, year recording was released. Medium.
Example	"The One Where Chandler Can't Cry." <i>Friends: The Complete Sixth Season</i> . Writ. Andrew Reich and Ted Cohen. Dir. Kevin Bright. NBC. 10 Feb. 2000. Warner Brothers, 2004. DVD.

Note: When the title of the collection of recordings is different than the original series (e.g., the show *Friends* is in DVD release under the title *Friends: The Complete Sixth Season*), list the recording title.

Citing a Specific Song from a Sound Recording:

Format	Last Name, First Name of Composer, Conductor, or Performer(s). “Title of Song.” <i>Name of Recording</i> . Manufacturer, year of issue [or n.d.]. Medium.
Example	Bono, Brian Eno, the Edge, and Luciano Pavarotti. “Miss Sarajevo.” <i>Pavarotti and Friends for the Children of Bosnia</i> . Polygram, 1996. CD.

Citing an Online Audio or Video Clip of a Performance or Speech:

Format	Last Name, First Name of Author, Creator or Speaker [if available]. “Title of Clip.” Sponsoring organization [if available], Location [if available], Day Month year of original event/performance [or N.d.]. Descriptive label. <i>Title of Website</i> . Medium. Day Month year of access.
Examples	Atwood, Margaret. “Margaret Atwood Lecture.” Lavin Agency, 22 Dec. 2006. Lecture. <i>YouTube</i> . Web. 22 Jan. 2007. Bush, George. “Bush Speaks after Gore’s Final Concession.” Austin, TX, 13 Dec. 2000. Speech. <i>History.com</i> . Web. 19 Jan. 2010.

Citing an Online Posting:

Format	Last Name, First Name of Author, Creator, or Performer [if available]. “Title of posting.” [or label Online posting if the posting has no title]. <i>Title of Website</i> . Sponsor or publisher of the site [or N.p.], Day Month year of publication. Medium. Day Month year of access.
Examples	Lavagnino, John. “OCR and Handwriting.” <i>Humanist Discussion Group</i> . 7 May 2002. Web. 24 May 2002. Drew, John. Online posting. <i>The Caucus: The Politics and Government Blog of the Times</i> . New York Times. 24 Sept. 2009. Web. 13 Oct. 2009.

Citing a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph:

Format	Last Name, First Name of Artist. <i>Title</i> . Date of composition or N.d. Medium [if viewed in person]. Name of Museum or Place of Presentation, City. <i>Title of Website</i> [if not viewed in person]. Medium [if not viewed in person]. Day Month year of access [if online].
Examples	Alma-Tadema, Lawrence. <i>Spring</i> . 1894. Oil on canvas. The Getty Center, Los Angeles. Evans, Walker. <i>Penny Picture Display, Savannah, Georgia</i> . 1936. Museum of Mod. Art, New York. <i>MoMA</i> . Web. 30 May 2009.

Citing an Interview:

Format	Last Name, First Name of interviewee. Interview by First Name Last Name of Interviewer [if available]. <i>Title</i> . Station information [if broadcast]. Date of interview. Day Month year of access [if online]. Medium.
Example	Breslin, Jimmy. Interview by Neal Conan. <i>Talk of the Nation</i> . Natl. Public Radio. WBUR, Boston. 26 Mar. 2002. Radio.

Citing an Advertisement:

Format	Name of Product, Company, or Institution. Advertisement. Publication information. Medium.
Examples	The Fitness Fragrance by Ralph Lauren. Advertisement. <i>GQ</i> Apr. 1997: 111-12. Print. Lee Custom Fit Jeans. Advertisement. <i>Bend without Flashing</i> . 2008. Web.