

Bluevale Collegiate Institute MLA Citation Guide

Based on the MLA Handbook, 7th edition

When creating an essay or presentation, you need to cite, or refer to, all sources of words, ideas or sentences that are not your own. There are two types of sources typically used in creating an essay or presentation:

- 1. Print publications (books, encyclopedias, newspapers, periodicals, journals, magazines)**
- 2. Web-based sources (internet sites, online databases)**

This guide will focus on the two types listed above. For other types of sources, please consult the MLA formatting site at Purdue.

In-Text Citation

When you cite a source in an essay, the Modern Language Association requires you to use an in-text citation that links to the appropriate entry on your Works Cited page at the end of the essay.

For print sources, the in-text parenthetical reference includes the author's last name and a page number.

Example: As the American poet Stephen Dobyns has stated, "the act of inspiration is, I think, the apprehension or grasping of metaphor" (Dobyns 41).

For Web citations, where few Web documents have page numbers, you can either give a paragraph number (if those exist in the document) or provide the author's last name or a short title for the source you are quoting. Here are some examples:

Example#1: One critic has emphasized Al Purdy entered the canon, "not just because he was useful to a nationalist agenda.....but because his work is both useful and good" (Silverberg).

or

Example#2: As the Canadian critic Mark Silverberg in a recent re-appraisal of Al Purdy's poetry has emphasized, Purdy entered the canon, "not just because he was useful to a nationalist agenda, but because his work is both useful and good" ("The Can(adi)onization of Al Purdy").

Please Note: If you mention the author in your lead-in to the quote, you do not need the parenthetical last name. If there are no page numbers, as is usual with Web documents, do not make up a page number or use the number one to represent the whole document. Just use a short title for the source you are quoting.

Works Cited

The last page of your essay should be a Works Cited page that is a list of all sources used. All sources should appear in alphabetical order. In the event that a source does not have an author, then the first word in the title that is not an article (A, An, The) should guide you in terms of alphabetical placement. Also, all lines in the citation after the first line, must be indented 5 spaces. This is called a *hanging indentation*. Finally, citations should have all the necessary information, as available, in order.

Here are the standard ways to format Works Cited entries:

Type of Source	Format
Book	Last name, First name. <i>Title of the book</i> . Place of publication: Publisher, Year of Publication, Medium of publication. Example: Orr, David. <i>Beautiful and Pointless: A Guide to Modern Poetry</i> . New York: HarperCollins, 2011. Print.
Book with two authors	Last name of first author, First name "and" First name and Last name of second author. <i>Title of the Book</i> . Place of publication: publisher, date, Medium of publication. Example: Banks, Chris and Paul Dowhaniuk. <i>Deptford Dialectics: Fifth Business and Religion</i> . Toronto: McClelland and Stuart, 1997. Print.
Book with 3 authors	Last name of first author, First name, "et al". <i>Title of the Book</i> . Place of publication: publisher, date, Medium of publication. Example: Banks, Chris, et al. <i>How to Get An A+ in High School English</i> . Toronto: Pearson, 2005. Print.
Essay from an Anthology	Last name, First name. "Title of Essay". <i>Title of Book</i> . Editor's Name. Place of publication: Publisher, date, Medium of publication. Example: Gallagher, Tess. "The Poem As Time Machine". <i>Claims for Poetry</i> . Ed. Donald Hall. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1982. Print.

<p>Encyclopedia or reference book</p>	<p>“Title of Article.” Name of reference. Edition. Year. Medium of publication.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>“English Romanticism.” Encyclopedia Britannica. 15th edition. 1986. Print.</p>
<p>Article in a journal, periodical, magazine or newspaper</p>	<p>Last name, First name. “Title of article.” <i>Title of Periodical</i> Date of publication: Page# (if there is more than one edition of a newspaper or magazine indicate the edition following the date). Medium of publication.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Major, Alice. “The Ultraviolet Catastrophe.” <i>The New Quarterly</i> Summer 2012, number 119: 58-65, Print.</p> <p>Ryder, Paul. “Griffin Poetry Prize An International Success.” <i>The Globe and Mail</i> 7 May 2009: E12. Print.</p>
<p>Article in a Website Database</p>	<p>Last Name, First name. “Article Title” <i>Title of Periodical</i> Date of publication: Page#. <i>Database Name</i>. Web. Date of access.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>Fenza, D. W. “The Wish To Be Swept Clean: The Poetry of Larry Levis.” <i>American Poetry Review</i> Mar/Apr 2002, Vol 31 Issue 2: 11. <i>Literary Reference Center Plus</i>. Ebsco Host. Web. 28 Oct. 2012.</p> <p>(If the database service has several sub-databases, list the <i>exact database</i> as well as the service. For example, Ebsco Host. The database name is italicized.)</p>
<p>Article from a Website</p>	<p>Last name, First name. “Title of Article.” <i>Website Name</i>. Organization name. Article date. Web. Date of access.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>North, Michael. Online Posting. “On ‘The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock’” <i>Modern American Poetry</i>. n.d. Web. 28 Oct. 2012.</p> <p>(If no date is visible for the article, use “n.d.” to signify no date. If there is no title for the article, use “Online Posting” to signify no title. Be aware most academic or scholarly sources should have this information. Evaluate sources carefully! The full URL address is not required in the citation.)</p>

Note: Refer to the MLA handbook for any alternate situations, rules and examples.