

How to Build a Works Cited Page, MLA Style

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of taking the writings of another person and passing them off as one's own. The fraudulence is closely related to forgery and piracy-practices generally in violation of [copyright laws](#). (Dictionary.com) Plagiarism is against the law. It can cause students to earn zeros, be kicked out of a college or university, and in some cases, cause people to lose jobs, pay fines, and go to jail. To avoid plagiarism, always cite, or quote, your sources. In the MLA style, writers create a list of the sources they have used in their research in Works Cited page and refer to them briefly within their paper with parenthetical citations. Here is how to create that Works Cited page:

1. Set your page to double space. Here's how: After you've typed "Works Cited" at the top of the page centered, hit "enter", and make click on the "left justified" button on your toolbar.
2. Here's how to get a hanging indent for all your bibliographic entries:
 - a. Type your first bibliographic entry. Highlight it.
 - b. On your Word toolbar, click on "format".
 - c. Click on "paragraph", then under "indentation" go to the drop-down menu under "special".
 - d. Click on "hanging indent". Click on "OK."
 - e. Every bibliographic entry after that should follow the same pattern automatically.
 - f. If it doesn't, then just repeat the process for each bibliographic entry.
3. Construct your Works Cited list before you write the final draft of your paper so you know what to use for parenthetical references within the paper.

How to cite books in a "Works Cited" page:

Sample entry for citing a book by one author in print:

Author's last name, first name. <i>Book Title</i> . City of Publication: Publisher, publication date. Print.

A book by one author:

Miller, Matt. *Making the Most of Middle School*. Whitefish, Montana:
Principal Publishers, 2010. Print.

A book by two authors:

Walker, Leslie and Michele Mize. *Language Arts for Fun and Profit*.

Southlake: Library Press, 2009. Print.

A signed article in a reference book—one with the author's name listed:

Jackson, Lisa. "How to Write an Amazingly Good Research Paper."

Encyclopedia of Southlake. 2010 ed. Print.

An unsigned article in a reference book—one with no author's name listed:

"Dragon Football." *Who's Who of High School Football in Texas*. 50th ed.

2009-2010. Print.

An article in a journal that numbers pages in each issue separately:

Adams, Amy. "Rediscovering the Excitement of Poetry." *English Teachers*

Monthly 25.7 (2010): 23-26. Print.

An article in a reference database:

"Researching and Writing is like Basketball: Give it Your Best Shot."

The Tara Tate Database of Fascinating Facts. Encyclopedia Tate.

2009. Web. 15 Apr. 2010.

Web publications:

MLA style for Web publications is similar to the MLA format for print publications, for the most part, except that the writer should:

1. mark the medium of publications for "Web" instead of "Print" and
2. include the user's date of access.

In the past, MLA required writers to include the URL, (Uniform Resource Locator—the web address found in the address bar), but because the URL addresses can get so long, it is easy to make mistakes.

Although MLA no longer *requires* the URL's in the Works Cited page, teachers assigning the research papers have the option of having students include them. In that case, write the URL right after the date of

access and enclose it in angle brackets: < and >. For especially long URL's, give enough information about the path so that your instructor can locate the exact page(s) you have used.

Tricks for always making appropriate citations—easy, fast, free:

There are now free citation generators available on the Internet that allow any student to choose the citation style required, (in this case, the MLA citation style), enter his/her bibliographic information in the blanks and hit enter to get a perfectly formatted citation. Some of the citation generators allow users to save and manage their citations for free.

Here is a listing of some of those cites:

Name of citation machine	URL	Features and benefits
Knight Cite	http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite	Allows use to choose citation style, can organize citations by paper and can save and alphabetize citations. Never any pesky, distracting ads. They use this as public relations for their college: Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Son of Citation Machine	http://citationmachine.net	Same benefits as above, but there are many peksy, distracting advertisements
Easy Bib	http://www.easybib.com	MLA is free, but other styles cost money. Ads are there, but not as distracting.
Noodle Tools	http://www.noodletools.com/login.php	This creates, but doesn't save citations--until we buy an entire school subscription--which CMS is considering.

Parenthetical Citations:

Parenthetical citations document a source in just a few words, clearly, and precisely. The easiest way to do that it to, within parentheses, list the author's last name and the page number (s)

Works Cited

"MLA Formatting and Style Guide." *Own Purdue Online Writing Lab* Purdue University, n.d. Web. 19

Jan. 2010. <<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>>.

"plagiarism." *Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.* Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. 19 Jan. 2010.

<Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/plagiarism>>.

Trimmer, Joseph F. *A Guide to MLA Documentation: With an Appendix on APA Style*. Eighth ed. Boston:

Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010. Print.