For more information consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition* (Call Number: ref LB2369 G53 2009) or visit [http://libguides.csuchico.edu/citingsources-MLA](http://libguides.csuchico.edu/citingsources-MLA)

**Formatting the Works Cited List**

1. Works cited list starts on a new page. Type the words “Works Cited” centered at the top of the page.
2. Double space within and between entries.
3. Use hanging indent form. The first line of each citation is set flush left and subsequent lines are indented one-half inch.
4. Arrange alphabetically, not by format of publication: book, journal, etc.
5. The author should be the first element of a citation, even for web pages. If no author is present, use editor name. If no editor is present, start with book title or article title.
6. List author’s last name, followed by a comma then the author’s first and/or middle name. Spell out author’s name. Do not use initials.
7. If a work has more than one author, only invert the first author’s name.
8. Underline or italicize titles of books, journals, magazines, newspapers and films.
9. Article titles are placed within quotation marks. Also use quotation marks for the titles of short stories, book chapters, poems and songs.
10. Capitalize each word in the titles of articles, books, etc. This rule does not apply to indefinite or definite articles (a, an, the), short prepositions, or conjunctions unless one is the first word of the title or subtitle.
11. Elements of a citation are separated by a period and one space.

*See Chapter 7 of the MLA Handbook for details on formatting and citation style. The online version of this guide also has further examples of different types of citations in the MLA style.*

**Citation Examples**

**Book, one author:**


**Chapter from book:**


**Journal article (print, microform, PDF), one author:**


**Journal article (online from a library subscription database), two authors:**

Journal article (online from an Internet-only journal), one author:
Fredrickson, Barbara L. “Cultivating Positive Emotions to Optimize Health and Well-being.”

Newspaper article, one author:

Newspaper article, no known author:

Article from CQ Researcher (electronic version):

Web page with no known publisher and no known date:
< http://www.sreyes.org/vjindex.htm >

Parenthetical Documentation

When writing your paper, whenever you express words, facts, or ideas that are not your own, you need to refer the reader to the original source of that information. Within the body of the paper use parenthetical references to refer the reader to the sources listed in the Works Cited. Usually the author’s last name and a page number are used to identify the source and the specific location from which you borrowed the material.

See Chapter 6 of the MLA Handbook for more details on citing sources in the text.

Parenthetical Examples

Author’s name in text (page number):
Tannen has argued this point (175-85).

Author’s name in reference (page number):
This point has already been argued (Tannen 175-85).

Author’s name in text (no page number):
Fukuyama’s Our Posthuman Future includes many examples of this trend.

Citing a work listed by title (no author): Use an abbreviated version of the title in quotation marks to substitute for the name of the author. Example:
International espionage was as prevalent as ever in the 1990s (“Decade”).