

MLA- New 2009 Rules

MLA style governs both what a document (your essay) looks like and how sources are cited. In April of 2009, the MLA updated its rules. The rules governing document style are the same as they were before, as are the rules for in-text citation. What have changed are the rules for works cited entries, especially those from web sources.

In-text citation

In-text citation rules have not changed. Use the same MLA rules as listed in your *Longman Handbook*. Remember that you cite both quotations and paraphrases of specific information.

Author's name in text with signal phrase.

Kimmel states that "homophobia is intimately interwoven with both sexism and racism" (216).

Author's name in reference

"Women and gay men become the 'other' against which heterosexual men project their identities" (Kimmel 216).

Works cited

This is where most of the changes have happened. For any works cited entry, you must now state the medium of publication.

Print publications

The rules for what you include in a works cited entry for a print publication are the same as those listed in your *Longman Handbook*, except that book titles are put in italics not underlined and "print" is put at the end of the entry.

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*. Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 2008. Print.

Rose, Mike. "I Just Wanna Be Average." *Rereading America*. 7th ed. Ed. Gary Colombo, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle. Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 2007. 161-172. Print.

Web publications

The biggest change in creating works cited entries for web sources is that you no longer have to provide the complete URL. You also can no longer skip steps 5 and 6 (see below). Here is a list of what you include for a web article:

1. Name author, editor, or corporate author. If none is provided, such as with an article from an on-line encyclopedia, then start with step 2.
2. Title of the work, italicized if work is independent, or in quotation marks if work is part of a larger work.
3. Title of website the source appears on, italicized (if different than in step 2).
4. Version of edition (if applicable).
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if none given, put *N.p.*
6. Date of publication; if none given, put *n.d.*
7. Medium of publication: *web*
8. Date of when you viewed site (day, month, and year)

Devor, A.H. "How Many Sexes? How Many Genders? When Two Are Not Enough." *University of Victoria*. Univ. Victoria, 29 June 2007. Web. 7 May 2009.

"Transsexualism." *Wikipedia*. Wikipedia, 13 June 2009. Web. 15 June 2009.

Even though the URL is no longer required, you should include it if the source you are citing is difficult to find. The MLA says that “you should include a URL as supplementary information only when the reader probably cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it” (182).

Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. *The William Blake Archive*. Lib. Of Cong., 28 Sept. 2007. Web. 20 Nov. 2007. <<http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/>>.

Web source originally published in print

If the web source you are using is a scan from a book or if the website provides print publication information for the source, then provide the print publication information as part of your works cited entry. Sometimes you may have to hunt for this information. It may be listed at the very bottom of the page in small type or on a page leading into the one that contains the text you are citing. Once you have located the print information, start your entry using the appropriate rules governing the original print source. Then, instead of putting *Print* at the end, put the following information:

1. Title of database or website (italicized)
2. Medium of publication: *Web*
3. Date of access (day, month, year)

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. *The Yellow Wallpaper*. New York: Feminist Press, 1973. *University of Virginia Library*. Web. 28 May 2009.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*. Brooklyn, 1855. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. Web. 12 March 2007.

Some thoughts from the MLA on citing sources

“Nearly all research builds on previous research... As you prepare your paper, you should similarly seek to build on the work of previous writers and researchers. And whenever you draw on another’s work, you must also document your source by indicating what you borrowed—whether facts, opinions, or quotations—and where you borrowed it from” (126).

“Quotations are effective in research papers when used selectively. Quote only words, phrases, lines, and passages that are particularly interesting, vivid, unusual, or apt, and keep all quotations as brief as possible. Overquotation can bore your readers and might lead them to conclude that you are neither an original thinker nor a skillful writer” (92).

“While it is tempting to think that every source has only one complete and correct format for its entry in a list of works cited, in truth there are often several options for recording key features of a work” (129).

“MLA style is flexible, and sometimes you must improvise to record features not anticipated by this handbook” (183).

Works Cited

Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009.