The following examples show how to document print and electronic sources for a research paper using the Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style. In this style, sources are briefly cited in parentheses within the text of a research paper, using the author’s surname and the page number of the specific material being used in the paper. A detailed list of the sources referred to in the parenthetical citations is provided at the end of the research paper on a separate page, with \textbf{Works Cited} centered at the top of the page.

All entries in the Works Cited list are double spaced, using hanging indents (first line at left hand margin, subsequent lines indented). Details on how to prepare the Works Cited list are found in Chapter 5 of the \textit{MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers}, 7th ed., available in the Library’s Reference Collection (call number: LB 2369 G53 2009 SMREF).

The following examples are intended as a brief guide only. For further clarification and examples of how to document different types of sources, please consult the \textit{MLA Handbook}. Note: the numbers in square brackets refer to the rule number found in the manual.

\section*{Print Sources}

\textbf{Book by one author [5.5.2]}


\textbf{Two or more books by the same author [5.3.4]}


\textbf{Book by two or more authors [5.5.4]}


\textbf{Work in an anthology [5.5.6]}


\textbf{Article in a scholarly journal [5.4.2]}


\textbf{Article in a newspaper [5.4.5]}


\textbf{Article in a magazine [5.4.6]}


\textbf{Government publication [5.5.20]}

Electronic Sources

- URLs should be listed only if your instructor requires it or if the reader may not be able to locate the source without it.
- Citations must include your date of access. The first date in the citation is the date of publication or the date the site was last revised when you visited it; the date at the end of the citation is the date you accessed the site. Note: if an e-book was previously published in a physical (i.e., print) format, the first date refers to its print publication date.

“The basic entry”: A document from an Internet site [5.6.1, 5.6.2b]


An entire Internet site [5.6.1, 5.6.2b]


E-book [5.6.2c]


Scholarly journal article published on the Web [5.6.3]


Scholarly journal article in an online database (e.g., library database) [5.6.4]


Newspaper or magazine article in an online database (e.g., library database) [5.6.4]


Online government publication [5.6.2c]