

MLA Documentation Help

➤ In-Text Citations (parenthetical documentation) – General format

The basic rule for in-text citations is this format: (WhateverTheSourceIsAlphabetizedByInWorksCited Page#). Often this means, (Author'sLastName Page#). So, for instance, (Bogost 34) or (Jenkins 348).

Anonymous articles: If the article had no author's last name, replace the Author's Last Name" with the first few words of the title. For instance, an anonymous article that is listed under its title, "Gaming Rocks in So Many Ways," would have a parenthetical citation that looks like this: ("Gaming rocks..." 45). Notice that you can abbreviate the title and that you still enclose the title in "".

Punctuation: The period FOLLOWS the parenthetical citation (except for in a block quote – in that case, the period *precedes* the citation). And if there is no page number, clearly you can't include one. URLs do NOT belong in parenthetical citation.

Quoting something the source quoted: If you are quoting something that was quoted in your original source (i.e., you like a quote by Bogost that you found in a Jenkins article much that you want to use it in your paper), format it this way: (Bogost qtd. In Jenkins 35). Note: even if Jenkins lists the Bogost source in his works cited, you DO NOT include it in your works cited UNLESS you went back and read that Bogost article yourself (which is always a good idea)

Redundancy – author's last name: If you have mentioned the author's last name in the sentence itself that includes the quote, you don't need to repeat the last name in the parenthesis. So you might end up with something like this:

Jenkins argues, "Educational games are never any fun" (35).

Bogost once argued, "Any good educational game started as a persuasive game" (qtd. In Jenkins 36).

If there is no page number and the author's last name is mentioned in the sentence, then technically you do not need to include the redundant citation.

Redundancy – multiple articles by same author: If the author has written multiple articles that are in your works cited, you'll need to distinguish between them in your parenthetical citation (Jenkins, "You Can't Bring..." 23) vs. (Jenkins, *Convergence* 45). If the titles are lengthy, include just the first few words in your parenthetical citation.

Redundancy – multiple citations in a row from same source: If several quotes in a row in one of your paragraphs are from the same source, you do not need to repeat the author's last name after the first time, though you need to keep citing the different page numbers – even if it is a repetitive page number. So you might have a series of sentences that look like this:

Some have said that educational games are like "spinach sundaes" (Jenkins 45). More specifically, Henry Jenkins argues, "Educational games are never any fun" (35). Games like Mathblasters and TypingWizard try to be fun, but, as he argues, they "fail at teaching and fail at entertaining" (35). Some other critics, however, see the possibility for "gaming to revolutionize the way kids learn today" (McGonigal 441).

When in doubt, always opt for clarity in your citations; you don't want to be accused of plagiarism, even if unintentional.

➤ Works Cited/Bibliographies – General Format

The basic format for citations in a works cited or bibliography in MLA form is as follows (I tried to represent these as fields that you would fill out):

Author's last name, author's first name. "Title of Article or chapter in quotes." *Title of the larger work that it comes from, whether website, book, etc.* Place of publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Page numbers. Medium of publication. Date you accessed it if an online source.

Clearly, if you don't have information to fill in a field, you can't fill it in. Here are some modified examples for some of the more unusual types of sources many students use in my PWR classes.

How to cite a BOOK.

Author's last name, author's first name. *Title of book in italics.* Publication place: Publisher, year of publication. Print.

So for instance, it might look like:

Arigulman, Tanner. *Games that Change the World.* New York: Macmillian, 2011. Print.

How to cite an ACADEMIC ARTICLE from a scholarly journal that you read in paper form

If you find and read an article in paper form, the citation should follow this format:

Author's last name, author's first name. "Title of article." *Title of larger work.* Publication issue.Issue number (year): page numbers. Print.

Jenkins, Henry. "Gaming Ideology." *Media & Society.* 10.3 (2011): 34-45. Print.

How to cite an ACADEMIC ARTICLE that you found through an academic database and read in electronic form.

Author's last name, author's first name. "Title of article." *Title of larger work.* Publication issue.Issue number (year): page numbers. *Database you got it from.* Web. Date you accessed it.

For instance, this is how you would cite an academic article that you found in a database:

Jenkins, Henry. "Gaming Ideology." *Media & Society.* 10.3 (2011): 34-45. *Project Muse.* Web. 24 September 2012.

How to cite a POPULAR ARTICLE from a mass media publication (newspaper or popular magazine)

This is how you would cite an article from a newspaper or a popular magazine that is published for the mass market (note the way you deal with the DATE is DIFFERENT from how you list it for an academic article).

McGonigal, Jane. "Hip Games to Play." *Time Magazine*. September 24, 2012: 3-7. Print.

Williams, Tom. "I h8te gamers." *Time.com*. Time.com. 24 September 2012. Web. 25 September 2012.

How to cite an ARTICLE that you found in a collection of essays.

Article author's last name, article author's first name. "Title of article or chapter." *Title of larger work*. Ed. and then first name & last name of the editors of the collection. Publication place: Publisher, year of publication. Span of pages. Print.

So, for instance, here's how to cite an article by James Gee that I found in a collection edited by Mark Bauerlein:

Gee, James. "Learning Theory, Video Games, and Popular Culture." *The Digital Divide*. Ed. Mark Bauerlein. NY: Penguin, 2011. 38-43. Print.

How to cite NATIVE WEBCONTENT from a webpage.

The method for citing webpages and websites on the web is very similar to citing a book, with a few differences related to the fact that you include date of access:

Author's last name, author's first name if you know it. "Title of article or webpage." *Title of larger website or online publication*. Title of publisher if known, otherwise write N.p., Date of publication if known, otherwise n.p.. Web. Date you accessed it.

So, for instance, a Wikipedia entry might look like this:

"Stanford University." *Wikipedia*. Wikipedia.org. 14 October 2012. Web. 15 October 2012.

An online article from Slate.com might look like this:

Yagoda, Ben. "You Need to Read This." *Slate*. Washington Post Newsweek Interactive. 17 July 2006. Web. 13 October 2012.

How to cite an INTERVIEW you conducted.

Name of person interviewed. Kind of interview. Date of interview.

Rheingold, Howard. Telephone interview. 12 October 2011.

McGonigal, Jane. Personal interview. 30 August 2010.

How to cite a VIDEO GAME.

The company that developed it. *The title in italics.* The company that published it, when they published it. The platform you played it on.

Infinity War. *Modern Warfare 2.* Activision, 2009. Playstation 3.

Bungie. *Halo: Reach.* Microsoft Game Studios, 2010. Xbox 360.

Angry Birds. Rovio Entertainment, 2009. iPhone. [note that here since the developer and publisher were the same, I only included Rovio in the developer field. I could have included it in both fields if I had wanted]

How to cite an IMAGE or SCREENSHOT

Author's Name if you know it. "Title of screenshot--- you might need to give it a descriptive title yourself." Who published the screenshot, date it was originally put online. Medium. Date you took the screenshot or accessed the image.

For instance, here's how to cite a photograph you found on a museum website:

Milhazes, Beatrice. "Succulent Eggplants." *Moma.org*, n.d. Photograph. 13 October 2012.

Here's how to cite an image you found on instagram:

Fielding, Geri. "Happy Latte." *Instagram*, 24 February 2010. Photograph. 13 October 2012.

Here's how to cite a screenshot you took yourself from a video game you played:

"Halo Reach battlescene." Microsoft Game Studios, 2010. Author's screenshot.

Here's an acceptable way to cite a screenshot you are using that someone else took and posted online but you want to use (for this example, there is no author):

"Star Wars Galaxies." *Sony.com*. Sony Online Entertainment, n.d. Screenshot. 5 Feb 2005.

How to cite a BOX COVER.

Artist if you know it. "Title of the work." *Title of larger publication.* Publisher, year of publication. Medium. Date of access if it's electronic.

So here's how you would cite a cover for a video game that you scanned in yourself.

Halo: Reach. Microsoft Game Studios, 2010. Box cover.

Here's how you would cite a cover that you found on Moby Games that you want to use in your paper.

"Halo: Reach." *Mobygames.com*. Mobygames.com, n.d. Web. 5 October 2012.

➤ More Resources on-Text Citations (parenthetical documentation)

- *Envision* chapter 7, p. 218-224 or *Envision in Depth* chapter 7, p. 151-154.
- Purdue OWL "MLA in-text citations - The Basics" at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>.

➤ More Resources on Works Cited/Bibliographies - General Guides/Overviews

- **Envision chapter 7** - This entire chapter is about citation styles, formats, and how to avoid plagiarism - and it contains samples. Pages 154-159 focus on MLA-formatted works cited.
- **Purdue OWL MLA guide** — if you actually want to LEARN about MLA style and do it yourself, this is a good starting point for all the rules you need to follow: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>
- **MLA Guide for the Writers of Research Papers** - This is THE guide for MLA style. Please be sure to use the 7th edition -- MLA changes its rules between editions. A pretty good investment for anyone who anticipates writing Humanities-focused research papers in the future.
- **"How to Cite a Cereal Box"** – a great 3 minute overview of how to bend MLA rules for unusual sources without breaking them. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPyB3bl7GYO>

➤ Citation Software for Works Cited/Bibliographies

- **Easybib** at <http://www.easybib.com>. This site offers some limited free services, though you may need a subscription to use its full resources.
- **RefWorks** - free software/cite that you can use to help you organize your citation and texts for years to come. You can export citations directly from your database searches or Searchwork searches. Find out more at <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/serg/services/instruction/bibsoftware/refworks.html>
- **Zotero** at www.zotero.org. This site advertises itself as "a free, easy-to-use tool to help you **collect, organize, cite, and share** your research sources." It offers plug-ins that work in conjunction with Firefox, Microsoft Word, and Open Office. Highly recommended if you want to learn a program that you can use to help you organize your sources throughout your time at Stanford.
- **The Citation Machine** at <http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?reqstyleid=1> REMEMBER, the term "magazine" refers to a popular magazine, while the term "journal" refers to an academic magazine or journal. Also, please note that this site often omits italics where needed: i.e. go through to make sure that the titles of journals, books, newspapers, and magazines are all properly italicized.
- **Searchworks** (<http://searchworks.stanford.edu>) has a "cite this" button on the upper right, so if you are looking at a citation record, you can click this button and see how to write the citation out in correct MLA form.