

Modern Language Association (MLA) Documentation

MLA documentation and formatting style is often used in the humanities (except history and theology) and the fine arts. For additional help, use the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (8th edition), visit the Purdue OWL (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>) or schedule an appointment at University Writing Services.

Each time you cite a source, include a...

- 1) parenthetical reference
- 2) works cited entry

STEP 1: PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES

Place a parenthetical reference at the end of each sentence that contains a borrowed concept or data that is not common knowledge. Cite both quotations and paraphrases.

Formatting: In parentheses, put the author's last name and the page number(s) on which the cited information appears. The period goes after the parentheses.

Ex. Pirates' lives typically ended within two or three years "and often ended ignominiously at the end of a rope" (Cawthorne 12).

If you include the author's name in the body of the sentence, omit it from the parenthetical reference.

Ex. Nigel Cawthorne explains that pirates' lives typically ended within two or three years "and often ended ignominiously at the end of a rope" (12).

Remember to cite borrowed information even when you don't quote the source directly.

Ex. Pirates were often hung after just a few years of marauding at sea (Cawthorne 12).

Sources without page numbers: If the source doesn't have page numbers, simply omit them.

Ex. "Julius Caesar struggled with the Roman Era Pirates and today many seas are still plagued as Modern Piracy is common off the coast of Somalia" (Wilczynski).

Webpages without authors: If the source doesn't list an author, use the webpage title in quotation marks instead. If the source lacks a webpage title, use the website title (italicized) instead.

Ex. Pirates designed their flags to intimidate opponents through their grizzly, skeleton imagery ("Pirate Flags").

STEP 2: WORKS CITED PAGE (*see example on reverse*)

At the end of the paper, add a page entitled "Works Cited" where you list information about each source cited in your text.

Formatting: List entries alphabetically by author's last name. Double-space each line. Place the first line of each entry flush with the left margin and indent subsequent lines. Italicize titles of major works, like books, websites, films, and journals. Put quotes around the titles of shorter works, like articles, webpages, and short poems.

Missing information: Some electronic sources may not list all the information expected in a standard MLA citation. If an author's name isn't listed, omit it and start the citation with the title of the work. You do not need to include placeholders or abbreviations for missing information such as dates or publishers.

Works Cited

Print book. Author last name, First name. *Title*. Publisher, year of publication.

Electronic book. Print book entry. *Database or Website Title*. URL.

Journal article in print. Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Journal Title*, volume, issue, year, article page #s.

Journal article from an online database Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Journal Title*, volume, issue, year, article page #s (if given). *Database Name*. URL or doi. Date accessed (optional).

Online newspaper or magazine article. Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Periodical Title*, Publication date, page #s (if given). *Database Name*. URL or doi. Date accessed (optional).

Webpage without author. "Webpage Title." *Website Title*. Publisher (if given), Date published (if given), URL or doi. Date accessed (optional).

Part of an anthology or a chapter in a print collection of essays. Author last name, First name. "Chapter Title." *Book Title*, edited by Editor Name, Publisher, year, page #s.

Personal or professional webpage. Author last name, First name. "Webpage Title." *Website Title*. Publisher (if given), Date published (if given). URL or doi. Date accessed (optional).

Cawthorne, Nigel. *A History of Pirates: Blood and Thunder on the High Seas*.

Chartwell Books, 2004.

Ellms, Charles. *The Pirates Own Book: Authentic Narratives of the Most Celebrated Sea Robbers*. Sanborn & Carter, 1837. *Project Gutenberg*, www.gutenberg.org/files/12216/12216-h/12216-h.htm.

Gabbert, Janice J. "Piracy in the Early Hellenistic Period: A Career Open to Talents." *Greece and Rome*, vol. 33, no. 2, 1986, pp. 156-63.

Luft, Gal, and Anne Korin. "Terrorism Goes to Sea." *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 83, no. 6, Nov. – Dec. 2004, pp. 61-71. *JStor*, www.jstor.org/stable/20034137.

Mele, Christopher. "Tens of Thousands Evacuated as Fire Rages in Southern California." *The New York Times*, 17 Aug. 2017. *LexisNexis*, [http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic/?verb=sr&csi=237924&sr=HLEAD\(california%20w/20%20fire\)+AND+DATE%3E=%25CURRED-14%25](http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic/?verb=sr&csi=237924&sr=HLEAD(california%20w/20%20fire)+AND+DATE%3E=%25CURRED-14%25).

"Pirate Flags." *The Way of the Pirates*. The Way Network, 2012.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. "Pirate Story." *A Victorian Anthology, 1837-1895*, edited by Edmund Clarence Stedman, Riverside Press, 1895, pp. 523-24.

Wilczynski, Krzysztof. "Introduction to Piracy." *Pirates! Fact and Legend*. www.piratesinfo.com/cpi_pirate_history_of_pirates_piracy_510.asp.