MLA Style Sheet for Bibliography and Footnotes/Endnotes
(For Humanities)

The MLA style of bibliographic citations is often used to cite sources in the humanities. The difference between MLA style and Turabian styles is in punctuation and formatting.

Footnotes and Endnotes: The primary function of a footnote or endnote is to inform the reader of the specific place within a work where a writer has cited text or extracted ideas from an outside source. Footnotes allow a person to read a paper without having to go to the end of the paper to locate the bibliographic citations for the materials the author refers to on the page. Endnotes are compiled together at the end of the paper before the bibliography.

The footnote/endnote is designed with a number, inserted within the text after the punctuation, which corresponds to a number at the bottom of the page or at the end of the paper. The footnote/endnote is indented five spaces and includes the entire bibliographic citation of sources with page numbers. The footnote/endnote is single-spaced, but double-spaced between citations.

Basic Citation Formats for Footnotes/Endnotes

Book

Author’s First and Last Name, Title of the Book, (Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication) Page Number(s).

Journal

Author’s First and Last Name, “Title of Article,” Title of Journal Volume (Year): Page Number(s).

Newspaper

Author’s First and Last Name, “Title of Newspaper Article,” Title of Newspaper, Date, Edition: Page Number(s).

Example

But Peter Scotto has offered another view.¹ Frye defined the alazon as a “self-deceiving or self-deceived character in fiction.”²


³Frye, 35.*

*Note: When a source is referenced more than once an abbreviated footnote can be used for after the first reference. If there is more than one title by the same author, include the first word of title between the author and page number. (ex. ³Frye, Anatomy of Criticism, 35.)
Bibliography/Works Cited: A bibliography is a list of citations of sources used to write a paper. A writer should include sources from which direct quotes were extracted to support the writer’s own ideas, paraphrased ideas from other sources, and sources the writer consulted to gain a general understanding of the research topic.

Formatting for a bibliography:

- Place the bibliography at the end of a paper
- The title should be “Bibliography” or “Works Cited” and should appear centered at the top of the page
- Double-space all lines
- Arrange entries alphabetically by the author’s last name
- The first line of each entry is at the left margin. Any additional lines for an entry are indented five spaces

Additional formatting guidelines for individual parts of a bibliography entry:

- **Author**: Last name first, followed by a period. With regards to initials and full name usage, the author’s name should appear as it does on the title page of the work being cited. For example, if the author’s name appears on the title page as Anthony T. Boyle, Ph.D. should appear as Boyle, Anthony T.

- **Punctuation**: Periods appear after the author, title, and the very end of the complete entry. A colon appears after the place of publication, and a comma is placed after the publisher. For other types of sources, see examples.

- **Title of Sources**: Follow the capitalization on the title page. Include any subtitles and, if not already shown, use a colon to separate the title and subtitle. Underline the entire title. For other types of sources, see specific examples.

**Example:**

Author. Title. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.
Example Citations for Bibliography and Footnote/Endnotes

KEY: B - Bibliography
     F - Footnotes/Endnotes

Books

Bibliography Format for Book Citations:

Author’s Name. Title of the Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year.

One Author or Editor as Author:

Example 1: Author


Example 2: Editor


Two or Three Authors, Editors as Authors:

Example 1: Author


Example 2: Editor


More than Three Authors:


Corporate Author without an Editor:


Article in a Reference Book

Unsigned Article:


Signed Article:


Magazine/Journal Articles

Bibliography Format for Article Citations:

Author’s name. “Title of the Article.” Journal Title Volume Number (Year): Page.

- **Author**: The journal article is listed in the reference list under the name of the author who wrote the article. Last name first, followed by the first name.

- **Titles of Sources**: Enclose in quotations but do not underline. All words in the title of the magazine/journal are capitalized and underlined.

**Journal Article (Hard Copy):**


**Magazine Article (Hard Copy):**

Electronic Databases/World Wide Web

Use the following citation styles for:

- Electronic version of a printed source. For example, Britannica Online, the Oxford Reference Online, and the Encyclopedia Americana are all online versions of the source available in the print format.

- Online database resources. For example, EbscoHost, FirstSearch, America: History and Life, JSTOR, and Lexis-Nexis all contain citations to electronic journals, newspaper articles, and book reviews that are available full-text online as well as citations to books and other media.

**Article from the World Wide Web:**

Author’s Name. Title of Document. Date Last Updated. Title of Organization or Website. Date Accessed <URL>.


**Article in Reference Book Online—Unsigned (Electronic Version):**

“Article Title.” Title of Source. Date Last Updated. Title of Print Source. Date Accessed <URL>.


     Encyclopedia Britannica. 31 October 2006 <http://search.eb.com/>. *

Article in Reference Book Online—Signed (Electronic Version):

Author’s Name. “Article Title.” Title of Source. Date Last Updated.

Title of Print Source. Date Accessed <URL>.


Journal Article (Electronic Database):

Author’s Name. “Article Title.” Title of Journal Volume (Year): Page Number(s). Name of Database or Website. Date Accessed <URL>.


Magazine Article (Electronic Database):

Author’s Name. “Article Title.” Title of Magazine Date: Page Number(s). Name of Database or Website. Date Accessed <URL>.


Newspaper Article (Electronic Database):

Author’s Name. “Title of the Article.” *Title of Newspaper or Website* Date. Date Accessed <URL>.  


*Note:* If the whole URL is of considerable length and will cause formatting errors, use a shortened URL of the website’s search page.

If you have any further questions on how to cite other types of works, consult the MLA Handbook (cited at the end of this page) or ask a librarian for help.

