

Documenting Sources

Modern Language Association (MLA)
Research Paper

The purpose of documenting sources is to acknowledge the use of borrowed material.

Documentation Requirements:

- Use parenthetical references within the body of the paper instead of footnotes and endnotes.
- Provide a list of sources called a list of Works Cited formerly called a bibliography, at the end of the paper. This list is numbered as a continuation of the text.

Placement and Punctuation Guidelines for Parenthetical References:

- Keep the parenthetical references as brief as possible. Insert the author's last name and a page number in the parentheses after the statement you are documenting:

"A large percentage of the suicides in this category are centered in the New York City area" (Hyde 126).

- If you include the author's name in a sentence, you need only put the page number of the reference in the parentheses:

Hyde notes that "a large percentage of the suicides in this category are centered in the New York City area" (126).

- If you are citing an entire work rather than a specific passage or section, omit any parenthetical reference and give the author's last name in your sentence:

Throughout her book, Hyde argues that suicide among the young constitutes a national epidemic.

Examples of Parenthetical References

A work by an author of two or more works you are numbers:

Use last name, comma, short title and relevant page using
(Grossman, Aesthetics 5)

A work by an author with the same last name as another author in your list of Works Cited

Supply first name: (James Brown 317)

A work by more than one author

Two authors: (Hyde and Forsyth 47)
Three or more authors (Quirk et al. 96)

A multi-volume work

Indicate volume used. (Laszlo 2: 787)

A work with no author

Use shortened version of title or whole title if it is short. If you shorten the title, be sure to begin with the word by which the source is alphabetized in the list of Works Cited. (Americana 8: 63)

Corporate author or government agency

You may include author and title, but it is often best to use information as part of a sentence since the citation may be long: (IBM Annual Report 1990 6)

Literary Works

Because of differences in editions use more than the page number to locate the passage cited. After the page number, add a semicolon and other appropriate information using lower case abbreviations such as "ch.", "pt": (Conrad 15; ch. 3)

More than one work in a single parenthetical reference

Use normal pattern but separate each citation with a semicolon: (Kabot 214; Perkins 58)

Reminder: All parenthetical references must be documented with full publishing information in the list of Works Cited at the end of your research paper.

Examples of Works Cited

Books

- No author A Handbook of Korea: 6th ed. Seoul, Korea: Seoul International Pub. House, 1987.
- One author Morrison, Toni. Sula. New York: Knopf, 1974.
- Two authors Hyde, Margaret O. and Elizabeth Held Forsyth. Suicide: The Hidden Epidemic Rev. ed. New York: Watts, 1986.
- More than two authors Quirk, Randolph, et al. A Comprehensive Grammar of the English language. London: Longman, 1985.
- Editor Perkins, Kathy A., ed. Black Female Playwrights: An Anthology of Plays Before 1950. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1989.
- Author and editor Shakespeare, William. The Comedy of Errors. Ed. by T. S. Dorsch. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1988.
- Edition Kabotis, Fred. Designs from the Ancient Mimbrenos. 2nd ed. Flagstaff: Northland, 1986.
- Several volumes Laszlo, Irvin, ed. World Encyclopedia of Peace 4 vols. New York: Pergamon, 1986.
- Essay or article in a collection Klawans, Stuart. "Colorization: Rose-Tinted Spectacles." Seeing Through Movies. Ed. Mark C. Miller. New York: Pantheon, 1990. 150-185.
- Encyclopedia Articles**
- Signed Sapir, Edward. "Communication." Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences. New York: Macmillan, 1930.
- Unsigned "Ping Pong Diplomacy." Encyclopedia Americana 1989 ed. (Omit publisher and place only for well known reference sets that frequently appear in new editions.)
- Magazines and Newspapers**
- Magazine article signed Theroux, Paul. "China Passage by Rail." National Geographic March 1988: 296-329.
- Magazine article unsigned "Time for Doubt." Time 26 Nov. 1990: 30-34.
- Scholarly journal with continuous Brook, Dan W. "The Value of Prolonging Human Life." Philosophical Studies paging 50 (1986): 401-26.
- Scholarly journal that pages Baum, Rosalie Murphy. "Alcoholism and Family Abuse in Maggie and The Bluest Eye." Mosaic 19.3 (1996): 91-105.
- each Issue separately or uses only Issue numbers
- Newspaper article unsigned "The Elected Aristocracy: 12 is Enough." Wall Street Journal 6 Nov. 1990, sec. A:22.
- Book review Hall, Lucia K. B. Rev. of God and the New Physics by Paul Davies. *Humanist* Nov.-Dec. 1986: 39.
- Interviews**
- Interview in person Basso, Lillian. Personal Interview. 4 March 1991.
- Interview in print Ellison, Ralph. Interview. "Invisible Man." With Allen McPherson. Atlantic Dec. 1970: 45-79.
- Speech** Allen, Steve. Address. Opening General Sess. CLA Convention. San Diego, 3 Nov. 1990.
- Television and Radio Programs**
- "If God Ever Listened: A Portrait of Alice Walker." Horizons. Prod. Jan Rosenthal. Natl. Public Radio. WBST, Muncie IN. 3 March 1984.

Source: Santa Rosa Junior College

For more information on the AMA style for term papers consult: -Gibaldi, Joseph L. ARA Handbook for Writers of Term Papers. 3rd edition New York.-AaA, 1988. LB2333369. G53 HISS Ref. (protected)