

How to Cite Books in MLA Style (7th ed.)

(Sometimes the “cart” goes before the “horse”: An approach to citing resources)

Explanation: Books should be cited in entirety unless it’s an edited book containing separate sections or chapters, each with its own author(s) (see **Reference Materials handout**). To differentiate chapters or sections of a book, do so in the in-text citation (see MLA 7th, 6.4.8, pp. 226-29). Instructions for citing:

1. Begin by creating the “Works Cited” page. This list consists of all sources **paraphrased** and **quoted** in a research paper. The list should be arranged in alphabetical order.

TIP! If it is difficult to identify author(s) of a book, consider if: (1) the book is written by a **corporate author** and no single author is identifiable or (2) the book is a **reference book**.

(Note: 12 point type required. For space considerations, we use 11 point in examples below).

Sample Works Cited

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: Chicago UP, 2008. Print.

Brown, John L. and Grant P. Wiggins. *Making the Most of Understanding by Design*. Alexandria: Assoc. for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2004. *netLibrary eBooks*. Web. 23 July 2009.

PBCC Database

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

Obama, Barack. *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*. New York: Crown, 2006. *Amazon Kindle* file.

O’Rourke, P.J. *On the Wealth of Nations*. New York: Grove, 2007. *Google Book Search*. Web. 22 July 2009.

Free non-copyrighted – public domain
– ebook collection on the web

Shorey, Paul. *The Assault on Humanism*. Boston: Atlantic Monthly, 1917. *Historical Monographs Collection*. Cornell U. Library. Web. 4 August 2009.

Sloan, Frank A., et al. *Drinkers, Drivers, and Bartenders: Balancing Private Choices and Public Accountability*. Chicago: Chicago UP, 2000. Print.

BASIC ELEMENTS OF CITATION

Entire Book (Hardcopy)

AuthorLastName, FirstName MiddleNameOrInitial. *Title of Book*. xnd ed. CityOfPublication:
 Publisher, 20xx. Print.

Entire Book (PBCC Online Database)

[Use sample above, but replace **Print** with following]: *DatabaseName*. Web. [Accessed] dd
 Month yyyy.

2. Next, cite **paraphrased** and **quoted** sources within your paper according to the entries in the **Works Cited** list. Paraphrased sources are cited using a (1) **signal phrase** or (2) **parenthetical citation**. The examples provided below are tied to the sample **Works Cited** list on the opposite page.

Signal phrase

O'Rourke's satirical approach to 18th-century economics theorist Adam Smith leaves the reader to interpret the good and bad characteristics of banking industry regulation (63). . .

Parenthetical Citation for Paraphrase

Considering numerous recent events in the publishing industry, one must learn about the ethics and credibility of authors... (Booth, Colomb, and Williams 80).

Parenthetical Citation for Quotation

. . . The main point of the concept, *understanding by design*, is "that students learn actively, not passively" (Brown and Wiggins 15).

3. For assistance with details of grammar, spelling, and other writing questions, visit the **SLC Writing Lab**.
4. For assistance with details of grammar, spelling, and other speech outlining requirements, visit the **SLC Writing Lab**.
5. Finally, consider several guidelines from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (2009):
 - No underlining; use italics instead (see 3.3, pp. 78-9)
 - When to include URL
 - if, without it, reader could face difficulty finding source
 - if **your instructor requires it**
 - **Flexibility of MLA style:** "improvise" when unanticipated features encountered
 - **"Be consistent..."** with styles when writing all citations
 - **Verification of websites:** chance of "disappearing sites, . . . download, . . . print, [or email]..." retrieved references and save for later – just in case (5.6.1, pp. 182-3)