

MLA Documentation Style

A Citation Guide for PVCC Students

Updated January 2009

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INTRODUCTION

The two citation styles most often required in your research papers and reports at Piedmont Virginia Community College are the MLA format and the APA format. You should always check with your instructors to determine the specific requirements for each class.

The MLA format is recommended by the Modern Language Association of America and is used for papers in the humanities (History, English, etc.). The complete source for this style is MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. 2003. This book is located on the Reserve shelf in the Jessup Library (LB2369.G53 2003).

PARENTHETICAL OR IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Many students are aware that their finished research papers should include a list of sources (Works Cited). Students should also understand that to use MLA documentation style correctly, they must acknowledge their sources in the body of the paper.

Simply put, this means that after every quotation, paraphrase, or borrowed idea used in the paper, the writer will use a short citation that leads the reader to that item's complete citation in the Works Cited page.

The parenthetical or in-text citation should include:

- the author's name (or title of the work, if that is how it appears on the Works Cited page)
- the page number where the quoted/borrowed information appears (if available)

Example:

Work with an author (6.2 and 6.3)

Not everyone believes in the gene mutation theory (Simmons 172).

or

Simmons argues that "some people totally reject the gene mutation theory" (172-174).

Work listed by title (6.2 and 6.4.4)

Antibacterial soaps are doing more harm than good ("Age of Antibacterials").

If you use an **indirect source** (a statement by one author that is quoted in the work of another author), use the abbreviation "qtd. in" (quoted in).

Indirect source (6.4.7)

Their behavior concept is called "Preventive Education" or "Preventive Intervention" (qtd. in Flick 141).

If you use an **Internet source without page numbers**, cite only the author's name (or the title of the site, if no author is listed).

Internet source with an author, but without page numbers

Franklin states sunburns happen in the first 30 days of summer for 90% of the population.

Internet source with no author, and no page numbers

According to the Internet source "Heatstroke Awareness," heatstroke is responsible for 50% of all employee sick days.

WORKS CITED

When a source is used within the body of a research paper, students need to list that source on what the MLA calls the Works Cited page. Detailed information can be found in Chapter 5 of the Handbook. The basic format of the page is as follows:

- one-inch margins
- title centered at the top of the page
- listed alphabetically by the author's last name or title of work, as available (5.5)
- entire document double-spaced (5.4)
- when an entry runs to more than one line, subsequent line(s) are indented one-half inch (5.4).

Citing Electronic/Internet Works

Students sometimes find citing electronic sources frustrating because parts of the citation information are unavailable. **MLA states that “writers must often settle for citing whatever information is available to them” (5.9.1).**

In general, the citation for an electronic source will include some or all of the following:

- author's name
- title of the document
- information about print publication (if appropriate)
- information about electronic publication
- access information—web address and the date accessed

Internet sites and resources sometimes disappear altogether; you should consider downloading or printing the material you use if you will need to access it again. Your instructors may require this; check with them before you start your research.

When an article first appeared in a print edition, and is then added to a database or website, follow these guidelines:

- list the original publication information first, using the format you would use for an article
- add to this the details for the database or website

WORK FROM A LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE (5.9.7a)

Author of Article's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." Title of Where Article First

Appeared in Print Vol.Issue (Year): Pages. Database Name. Library That Subscribes to the Database. Date Database Was Used by Student <web address for the library>.

Freeman, Alma S. "Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker: A Spiritual Kinship." Sage II.1 (1985): 37-40. Literature Resource Center. InfoTrac. Piedmont Virginia Community College Lib. 27 May 2005 <<http://www.pvcc.edu/library>>.

Jost, Kenneth. "School Desegregation." CQ Researcher 14.15 (2004). CQ Researcher Online. Piedmont Virginia Community College Lib. 7 May 2004 <<http://www.pvcc.edu/library>>.

Waters, Rob. "Generation RX: The Risk of Raising Our Kids on Pharmaceuticals." Psychotherapy Networker Mar./Apr. 2000: 34-43. SIRS Researcher. SIRS Knowledge Source. Piedmont Virginia Community College Lib. 19 Feb. 2004 <<http://www.pvcc.edu/library>>.

"Woman Suffrage." Encyclopedia Britannica. 2004. Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Piedmont Virginia Community College Lib. 15 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.pvcc.edu/library>>.

WORK FROM A PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE (5.9.7b)

"Zebra." Compton's Encyclopedia Online. Vers. 3.0. 1999. America Online. 4 Apr. 1999. Keyword: Compton's.

ONLINE BOOK (5.9.3)

Masson, Paul R. The Monetary Geography of Africa. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2005. NetLibrary. Piedmont Virginia Community College Lib. 23 Mar. 2006 <www.netlibrary.com>.

Lathrop, Ann, and Kathleen E. Foss. Student Cheating and Plagiarism in the Internet Era: A Wake-up Call. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2000. NetLibrary. Piedmont Virginia Community College Lib. 19 Feb. 2003 <www.netlibrary.com>.

ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE JOURNAL (5.9.4a)

Gandel, Paul B., and Cynthia Golden. "Professional Development in Tough Financial Times."

Educause Quarterly 27.1 (2004): 45-48. Educause. 24 Mar. 2004

<<http://www.educause.edu/pub/eq/archives.asp>>.

Mundy, L.M. "Thumbs Up to Certain Environmental Cleansers." Journal Watch

Infectious Diseases 1 Mar. 2000. 2 Mar. 2004 <<http://infectious-diseases.jwatch.org>>.

ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE MAGAZINE (5.9.4c)

Pollack, Kenneth M. "Spies, Lies, and Weapons: What Went Wrong." Atlantic Online Jan.

2004. 24 Mar. 2004 <[http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/prem/200401/](http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/prem/200401/pollack)

pollack>.

ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE NEWSPAPER OR NEWSWIRE (5.9.4b)

Brown, David. "Estrogen Study on Menopausal Women is Stopped." Washington Post 3 Mar.

2004. 23 Mar. 2004. <<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/washingtonpost/>

search.html>.

ONLINE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION (5.9.3c)

United States. Dept. of the Treasury. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. National

Church Arson Task Force: Fourth Year Report for the President.

Sept. 2000. 24 Mar. 2004 <http://www.atf.gov/pub/gen_pub/report2000>.

MISCELLANEOUS INTERNET SOURCES (5.9.1)

Moffatt, Mike. "Should Governments Legalize and Tax Marijuana?" About.com. 24 May 2005

<<http://economics.about.com/od/incometaxestaxcuts/a/marijuana.htm>>.

National Center for Infectious Diseases. “Questions and Answers Regarding Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).” Center for Disease Control. 25 Mar. 2004 <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/cjd/bse_cjd_qa.htm>.

“The Relative Risk of Shark Attacks to Humans.” Florida Museum of Natural History. 1 Mar. 2004. <<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/attacks/relarisk.htm>>.

Books—paper editions

When citing books, be sure to include the following information:

- author or group responsible for the content
- title
- publication information

Each of these elements should be separated by a period and two spaces

Author’s Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Copyright Date.

BASIC BOOK (5.6.1, 5.6.4 and 5.6.14)

Benard, Cheryl. Veiled Courage: Inside the Afghan Women’s Resistance. New York: Broadway, 2002.

Goldstein, Sam, and Michael Goldstein. A Parent’s Guide: Attention Deficit Disorder in Children. Salt Lake City: Neurology Learning and Behavior Center, 1995.

Lewis, Samella. African American Art and Artists. Rev. and Expanded ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

ANTHOLOGY (5.6.2)

Schilb, John, and John Clifford, eds. Making Literature Matter: An Anthology for Readers and Writers. Boston: Bedford/St.Martin's, 2000.

Using a portion of an anthology (5.6.7)—Enclose the title of the work in quotation marks unless the work was previously published on its own. Underline plays, novels, etc. that have been published independently (see second example below).

Angelou, Maya. "Age and Sexuality." Age Ain't Nothing but a Number: Black Women Explore Midlife. Ed. Carline Brice. Boston: Beacon Hill, 2003. 81-185.

Williams, Tennessee. The Glass Menagerie. Making Literature Matter: An Anthology for Readers and Writers. Eds. John Schilb and John Clifford. Boston: Bedford/St.Martin's, 2000. 399-447.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED (REPRINTED) SCHOLARLY ARTICLE IN A COLLECTION (5.6.7)

When an article first appeared in a journal, and is then reprinted in a collection, follow these guidelines:

- list the original publication information first, using the format you would use for an article
- add to this the publication details for the collection itself

Article Author's Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Title Where Article First Appeared
Volume.Issue (Year): Pages. Rpt. In Title of Collection Used for Paper. Editor's First
Name Last Name. Ed. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pages.

Fitzgerald, Robert. "The Countryside and the True Country." Sewanee Review 70.3 (1962).
Rpt. In Modern Critical Views: Flannery O'Connor. Ed. Harold Bloom. New York:
Chelsea, 1986. 19-30.

ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE BOOK (5.6.8)

“Berserk.” Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. 10th ed. 1993.

Leeming, David Adams and Kathleen Morgan. “Morality Plays.” Encyclopedia of Allegorical Literature. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1996.

THE BIBLE (6.4.8)—Provide the name, editor, and publisher of the specific edition.

The New Jerusalem Bible. Henry Wansbrough, gen. ed. New York: Doubleday, 1985.

AN EDITION (5.6.12)—An author’s work prepared for publication by someone other than the author.

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. The Abridged Diaries of Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Ed. Denise D. Knight. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1998.

Articles in Periodical Publications—paper editions

ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL (5.7.1)

Kozub, Mary L., and Francis Kozub. “Dealing with Power Struggles in Clinical and Educational Settings.” Journal of Psychosocial Nursing 42.2 (2004): 23-31.

Orme, Nicholas. “The Dead Beneath Our Feet.” History Today 54.2 (2004): 19-25.

ARTICLE IN A NEWSPAPER (5.7.5)—No city necessary unless the title is obscure or very common.

Connolly, Ceci. “Illinois Couple Sues Over U.S. Drug Import Ban.” Washington Post 26 Feb. 2004: A13.

Maurer, David. “Matter of History.” Daily Progress [Charlottesville] 8 Feb. 2004: C4+.

ARTICLE IN A MAGAZINE (5.7.6)

Orecklin, Michele. “At What Cost Beauty?” Time 1 Mar. 2004: 50-51.

A REVIEW (5.7.7)

Lehman, John. "In Too Deep." Rev. of The Nazi Raid on America, by Michael Dobbs.

Washington Post Book World 22 Feb. 2004: 4-5.

Miscellaneous Print and Non-print Sources—Excluding Internet

ADVERTISEMENT (5.8.10)

Nike Pro Compression. Advertisement. Sports Illustrated 23 Feb. 2004: 13.

AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL (5.8.2, 5.8.3)

Dying to Be Thin. Prod. NOVA. Narr. Susan Sarandon. 2000. Videocassette. WGBH Boston Video, 2000.

INTERVIEW (5.8.7)

Cox, Maurice. Personal interview. 19 Jan. 2004.

Updike, John. Interview with Scott Simon. Weekend Edition. Natl. Public Radio. WVPT, Pittsburgh. 2 Apr. 1994.

LECTURE, SPEECH, OR ADDRESS (5.8.11)

Sabato, Larry. "Politics on the Edge." Window Series. Betty Sue Jessup Library. Piedmont Virginia Community College, Charlottesville. 24 Oct. 1991.

TELEVISION OR RADIO PROGRAM (5.8.1)

"Yes . . . But Is It Art?" Narr. Morely Safer. Sixty Minutes. CBS. WCBS, New York. 19 Sept. 1993