

# A Quick Guide to MLA Referencing

---

Referencing systems, such as APA and MLA, are used to help readers find the texts that you refer to in your paper and to give credit for other people's ideas. It is very important to use them correctly in academic writing.

There are two parts to MLA references. In the body of your paper you provide **parenthetical documentation**. At the end of your paper you have a more detailed **Works Cited bibliographic list**. The in-text parenthetical documentation is used to help readers find the full information in the Works Cited list at the end of the paper.

## *In-text Parenthetical Documentation*

These are short notes designed to help your reader find the full reference in the Works Cited list. They should include the following information:

- Last name of author
- Page number

### Examples

1. As Henderson states, "Writing is often taught as though it were a linear, sequential process" (3).
2. The problem is that, "Writing is often taught as though it were a linear, sequential process" (Henderson 3).

## *The Works Cited List*

All references should include the following information:

- Author
- Year/date
- Title
- Publication information
- Medium

### Example - Print

Henderson, Eric. *Writing by Choice*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2006. Print  
*Author Title Publication information Pub. date Medium*

### Example – Electronic

Jokinen, Anniina. *Luminarium.org*. Luminarium, 2007. Web. 27 May 2008  
*Author Title Publisher/ Pub. Date/ Medium/ Retrieval date*

## ***Electronic Sources***

Using MLA is quite straightforward if you are just using print materials. However, if you are using electronic materials, it can be more difficult to find the information you need for the reference. Here are some examples of how to reference commonly-used electronic sources.

### Online encyclopaedia

Nikolajeva, Maria. "Yaga, Baga." *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Children's Literature*.

Ed. Jack Zipes. Oxford Reference Online, 2006. Web. 14 Apr. 2010.

### Book review in the online edition of a newspaper

Howard, Richard. "Duet for Two Pens." Rev. of *Why Translation Matters*, by Edith

Grossman. *New York Times*. New York Times, 08 Apr. 2010. Web. 15 Apr. 2010.

### Journal article accessed directly from the publisher

Joshi, Priti. "Mutiny Echoes: India, Britons, and Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two

Cities" *Nineteenth Century Literature* 62.1 (June 2007): 48-87. *Caliber*. Web. 12

Feb. 2009.

### Electronic book

Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park*. Boston, 1864. *Google Book Search*. Web. 05 Nov. 2009.

### Online dictionary

"Nebulous." *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary*. Oxford Reference Online, 2004. Web. 23

Mar 2010.

## ***More Information and Examples***

For more information, check out the link below or contact your academic librarian.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>