Citing Your Sources

MLA Handbook 7th Edition

Part of academic writing involves acknowledging the sources of material you used to prepare your paper. This is called citing your sources, and doing so properly gives you more credibility as a writer.

At West Valley College the English Department has chosen as a standard the MLA format. Instructors in other disciplines also often specify this citation format as it is one of the easiest to understand. Another format, the APA style (American Psychological Association), is used in the psychology, sociology and other related fields. Check with your individual instructors on what citation style they prefer.

BOOKS

Generic citation format:
Author last name, Author first name. Title of the Book is Italicized. City of publication: Name of publisher, year of publication. Medium of publication. Access Date. (give access date only if e-book)

One author:

Two or three authors:

E-Books:


An Anthology or Edited Book:

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ARTICLES FROM ONLINE LIBRARY DATABASES

Generic citation format:
Author last name, Author first name. “Title of Article in Quotation Marks.” Name of Periodical Italicized volume number for a scholarly journal. Issue number, if available, for a scholarly journal (Year of publication in parenthesis): Inclusive page numbers, if not available, use n. pag. Title of database italicized. Medium of publication. Date of access.

Journal Article:


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**WEB PUBLICATIONS**

**Generic format for a Web-based article or a Web page:**
Author last name, Author first name. “Title of Page/Article in Quotation Marks.” *Title of Overall Website Italicized.* Publisher/sponsor of the site or if not provided use N.p., Date of publication or if not provided use n.d. Web. Date of access. <Enclose the URL in angle brackets if instructor requires>.


**OTHER TYPES OF SOURCES**


Foo Fighters. *In Your Honor.* RCA, 2005. CD.

Copies of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th Edition* are available at the West Valley College Library. You can search the catalog at [http://lib.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/search](http://lib.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/search)