MLA STYLE QUICK GUIDE:
CITING ARTICLES FROM LIBRARY DATABASES

This guide is based on the 7th edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. When using the examples, be sure to follow the punctuation and format exactly as shown. Citations must be double-spaced with a "hanging indent" (all lines of the citation except the first are indented over 0.5 inches).

General Format and Punctuation for Citing Library Database Articles:

1. Author Last name, First name Middle name [followed by a period]
   - For multiple authors, only reverse the first author name: Bay, Joe M., Sara Rose Tan, and Rob Nen.
   - For 4 or more authors, name only the first author followed by et al.: Chen, Mei L., et al.
   - List names in the order they appear on the article.
   - Include middle names and initials if given.
   - Do not include professional titles, such as MD or PhD.
   - If no author name is provided, skip the author and begin with the title.

2. Title of article [end with a period and put in quotes]
   - Capitalize all important words (and the first word) in both titles and subtitles.
   - DO NOT capitalize words like “the,” “a,” “of,” etc. (unless they are the first word in the title or subtitle).
   - Always include the subtitle after a colon. Example: “Childhood Obesity: The Facts.”

3. Title of source [in italics; DO NOT follow with a period]. Examples: Journal of Art or New York Times
   - Capitalize all important words (and the first word) in both titles and subtitles.

4. For a journal include:
   - Volume [followed by a period] Issue number. Example: 41.2
   - Year [in parentheses and followed by a colon]. Example: (2008):

   For a magazine or newspaper include:
   - Full publication date (Day Month Year) [followed by a colon]. Example: 22 Jan. 2007:
   - Note: Only provide the city of publication for a local newspaper whose city is not already in the name.

   - **Abbreviate page numbers over 99.** Examples: 122-26 or 1335-48.
   - The Academic Search Premier “Cite” tool formats the page numbers incorrectly! **You need to fix it!**
   - If no page numbers are provided, write n. pag.

   - For the database name, type it as it appears on the library list of databases.

7. Medium [followed by a period] (will always be Web if it is from a library database). Example: Web.

8. Date you accessed the article online [followed by a period]
   - Abbreviate all months except May, June, July.
   - Format as Day Month Year, i.e.: 29 June 2013, 5 Aug. 2013.

   **Examples:**

   **Scholarly Journal Article from Academic Search Premier:**


   - In-text citation example: “Quote from page 244 of the article” (Brown 244).
Scholarly Journal Article with 4 or More Authors:

- In text citation example: Paraphrasing an argument from multiple pages (Foltran et al. 649-50).

Magazine Article from *Academic Search Premier*:

- In text citation example: “Quoting page 20 of this article” (Mitchels and Reeves 20).

Article from *CQ Researcher* (this publication is cited as a magazine):

- In text citation example: “Quoting page 20 of this article” (Mantel 20).

Magazine Article with Unknown/No Author:

- In text citation example: “Quoting page 3 of this article” ("Oil Spill Solutions" 3).

Newspaper Article from *Academic Search Premier*:

- In-text citation example: “Quoting page 19 of this article” (Wheaton 19).

Newspaper Article with Unknown/No Page Number(s):

- In text citation example: Scott reported in the *Christian Science Monitor* that students at a Delaware high school would be allowed to wear hoodies as part of a silent demonstration.

More MLA Style Resources:

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.* (available at any library)
Diana Hacker MLA Guide: [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0011.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0011.html)
Diana Hacker In-Text Citation Guide: [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0001.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0001.html)
Purdue Online Writing Laboratory MLA Guide: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)