MLA STYLE QUICK GUIDE: CITING WEB RESOURCES

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 Web Pages:**

***NOTE: These steps only apply to standard Web pages. See examples provided below for other Web sources, such as journal articles on the Web.***

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 website. 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 Work/Article or Web Page [end with a period and put in quotes]**
   - Capitalize all important words (and the first word) in both titles and subtitles.
   - Always include the subtitle after a colon. Example: “Coronary Artery Disease: Prevention.”

3. **Title of Overall Website [in italics and followed by a period]**
   - Type it as it appears on the Website. Example: *University of Maryland Medical Center.*
   - Spell out the title – do not format it as a URL.

4. **Publisher or sponsor of the Website [followed by a comma]**
   - Check the copyright statement at bottom of page, or the “About” page for the publisher name.
   - If no publisher is given, write N.p. (this is the abbreviation for “no publisher”).

5. **Date of publication or last update [followed by a period]**
   - Include Day Month Year, as available. Example: 10 Aug. 2008.
   - Look at the very top and very bottom of the Web page for date information.
   - If no date is provided, write n.d.

6. **Medium [followed by a period] (will always be Web since it is from the Internet).**

7. **Date you found/viewed the article online [followed by a period]**
   - Abbreviate all months except May, June, July. Format as Day Month Year: 14 July 2014, 2 Apr. 2014.

8. **URL, if required [in <angle brackets> and followed by a period]**
   - Only include the URL if the source is *hard to find with a search engine*
   - To determine this, try Googling your Web page title, then examine your results. If it is obvious which result is your page, there is no need to include the URL. However, if there are multiple results with the same or similar title, or if it is unclear which result is your page, please include the URL.
   - URL should lead directly to the exact page/source you are citing.

**Examples:**

**Page or Article on a Website** (most Web resources will use this format):


- In-text citation example: “Quoting from this web page” (Green).
A Scholarly Journal Article on the Web:

- In-text citation example: Paraphrasing pages 2-3 of this article (Amrein-Beardsley 2-3).

An Online-Only Newspaper or Magazine Article (published only on the Website):

- In text citation example: “Quoting from this article” (Woolfolk).

An Online Version of a Print Newspaper or Magazine Article:

- In text citation example: “Quoting from this article” (Beil A1).

Web Page with No Author, No Publisher/Sponsor, and No Date of Publication:

- In text citation example: “Choice in dying” is used instead of “right to die” (“Aid-In-Dying”).

An Entire Website with No Author:

*Note: You almost never want to cite an entire website. Instead, cite a specific page that has significant content for your research.*


- In text citation example: The *Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Don’t Pursue* site “contains primary materials on the U.S. military’s policy on sexual orientation, from World War I to the present.”

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/)