

# MLA: Formatting Rules, Informational Sites, & Example Works Cited

The following sections offer

- ❖ [formatting rules](#) for a Works Cited page,
- ❖ [URLs for web sites](#) with more information about MLA documentation, and
- ❖ [an example MLA bibliography](#) using entries from the "MLA Citation Rules & Examples" page by Tarleton Libraries.

## MLA WORKS CITED FORMATTING RULES

An MLA bibliography (also called "works cited" or "literature cited") is formatted as follows:

- ❖ List only the items used in your paper on a works cited list.  
See the MLA handbook for rules about listing works you read, but did not use.
- ❖ Put the bibliography at the end of the paper.
- ❖ Start the bibliography on its own page.
- ❖ Put the page number in the upper right-hand corner, half an inch from the top and flush with the right margin.
- ❖ Label the page with an appropriate title: Works Cited, Bibliography, Literature Cited, etc.  
See the handbook for other possible titles and the guidelines for each.
- ❖ Do not underline the title or put it in quotation marks.
- ❖ Center the title an inch from the top of the page.
- ❖ Double space the entries.
- ❖ Begin the first line of each entry at the left margin. Indent subsequent lines five spaces or 1/2 inch. This is called a hanging indent in most word processing programs.
- ❖ List entries alphabetically based on the first letter of the first element. (e.g. by the first author's last name or by the first word in a title -- ignoring any initial A, An, and The)
- ❖ Consult the MLA handbook (Call Number PE1478.M57) for additional rules, as well as detailed rules for punctuation, abbreviations, and capitalization. The [MLA Style Sheet](#) by Dr. Abel Scribe offers a synopsis of these rules.

## SITES WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about documentation styles is available from the following web sites:

- ~ **Modern Language Association:** <http://www.mla.org/>
- ~ **MLA Citation Rules & Examples:** from Tarleton Libraries at Tarleton State University  
[http://www.tarleton.edu/~library/userhelp/document\\_mla\\_lh.html](http://www.tarleton.edu/~library/userhelp/document_mla_lh.html)
- ~ **MLA Writer's Handbook:** from The Writing Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocMLA.html>
- ~ **Citing Your Sources: Print & Electronic Style Guides:** from A. Frank Smith, Jr., University Library Center at Southwestern University, Georgetown TX  
<http://www.southwestern.edu/library/research-support/citing-sources.html>
- ~ **Assembling a List of Works Cited in Your Paper:** from Duke University Libraries  
<http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/workscited/index.html>

## EXAMPLE MLA WORKS CITED

The following example Works Cited uses proper MLA format. The entries come from examples used on the Tarleton Libraries' [MLA Citation Rules & Examples](#) page.

### Works Cited

Altick, Richard D., and Andrea A. Lunsford. *Preface to Critical Reading*. 6th ed. New York: Holt, 1984.

Bambara, Toni. *The Salt Eaters*. New York: Random House, 1980.

Baum, Rosalie Murphy. "Alcoholism and Family Abuse in *Maggie* and *The Bluest Eye*." *Mosaic* 19.3 (1986): 91-105.

Brock, Dan W. "The Value of Prolonging Human Life." *Philosophical Studies* 50 (1986): 401-26.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes*. Ed. Owen Dudley Edwards, 9 vols. New York: Oxford UP, 1993.

Fuerbringer, Jonathan. "Budgetary Rhythms." *New York Times* 20 Mar. 1987, late ed.: A8.

Gong, Victor, and Norman Rudnick, eds. *AIDS: Facts and Issues*. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 1986.

Graham, Don. "When Myths Collide." *Texas Monthly* Jan. 1986: 42+.

Greeley, Andrew. "Today's Morality Play: The Sitcom." *New York Times* 17 May 1987, late ed., sec. 2: 1+.

*A Guide to Our Federal Lands*. Washington: Natl. Geographic Soc., 1984.

Hyde, Margaret O., and Elizabeth Held Forsyth. *Suicide: The Hidden Epidemic*. Rev. ed. New York: Watts, 1986.

Jackson, Andrea. "Applying TQM Principles to the Finance Department: The City of Auburn Experience." *Government Finance Review* Feb. 1999: 17-21.

Lambropoulos, Vassilis, and David Neal Miller, eds. *Twentieth Century Literary Theory: An Introduction Anthology*. Albany: State U of New York P, 1987.

- Liebert, Herman W. "Reflections on Samuel Johnson." *Journal of English and German Philology* 47 (1948): 84-88. Rpt. in *Samuel Johnson: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Ed. Donald J. Greene. Twentieth Century Views. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice, 1965. 15-21.
- Pangle, Thomas L. "Patriotism, American Style." *National Review* 29 Nov. 1985: 30-34.
- Parker, Hershel. *Melville: A Biography*. Vol. 1. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996.
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- Schlesinger, Arthur M., gen. ed. *History of U.S. Political Parties*. 4 vols. New York: Chelsea, 1973.
- Stafford, Peter, comp. and ed. *Interference: The Story of Czechoslovakia in the Words of Its Writers*. Cheltenham: New Clarion, 1992.
- Thomas, Lewis. "Computers." *The Penguin Book of Contemporary American Essays*. Ed. Maureen Howard. New York: Penguin, 1985. 153-55.
- Tucker, Cynthia. "Education Stays on Top of Southerners' Agenda." *Atlanta Constitution* 21 Mar. 1987: 19A.
- Westersdorf, Karl P. "Hamlet's Encounter with the Pirates." *Shakespeare Quarterly* 34 (1983): 434-40.
- Winks, Robin W. "The Sinister Oriental Thriller: Fiction and the Asian Scene." *Journal of Popular Culture* 19.2 (1985): 49-61.