

## MLA Format for Research Papers at AMS

**Plagiarism** is the act of using another person's ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else. Plagiarism is considered theft and can carry severe penalties ranging from failing an assignment to failure in a class or even expulsion from school. You may certainly use other persons' words and thoughts in your research papers, but **you must acknowledge the authors**. MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines are those adopted by the AHS English department as well as most colleges and will help you avoid plagiarism. You must document exactly what you have borrowed from each source and exactly where in that work you found the material. To do this, MLA format uses **parenthetical referencing** within the body of your paper to insert the source and page reference.

### Example:

Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord as well as several other ancient Greek musical instruments in the sixth century B.C. to Pythagoras (Marcuse 197).

Notice there is no comma between the author's last name and the page number and the end mark (period) goes **after** the parentheses.

The parenthetical reference indicates that the information on the monochord in this report comes from page 197 of the book by Marcuse. This book is included in the alphabetically arranged list of **works cited** found at the end of the report.

### WORKS CITED PAGE(s)

This should contain the list of sources that you referred to in the preparation of your report. Following are examples of how various types of reference sources should be documented in your **Works Cited** list. The list should be **alphabetized, not numbered**. The first line of each entry is indented five spaces (one tab) and each subsequent line should be indented five more spaces (one more tab) beyond the start of the first line so that the first line sticks out farther into the margin. Note the use of punctuation.

#### 1. One Author

Marcuse, Sibyl. *A Survey of Musical Instruments*. New York: Harper, 1995.

#### 2. Two Authors

Houghton, Walter E., and Robert G. Strang. *Victorian Poetry and Poetics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999.

#### 3. Three Authors

Berelson, Bernard R., Paul F. Lazerfeld, and William N. McPhee. *Voting*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001.

#### 4. More than Three Authors

Edens, Walter, et al., *Teaching Shakespeare*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1995.

#### 5. No Author Given

*Encyclopedia of Photography*. New York: Crown, 1984.

#### 6. A Work in an Anthology—editor in place of author

Lloyd, George. "Science and Mathematics." *The Legacy of Greece*. Ed. Moses I. Finley. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

**7. Article in a Reference Book signed**

Drabble, Margaret. "Expresionism." *The Encyclopedia Britannica*. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. 2000.

**8. Article in a Reference Book – unsigned**

"Sitting Bull." *Encyclopedia Americana*. 1994 ed.

**9. Article in Magazine or Newspaper**

Marshall, Samuel. "Russian Television." *New York Times*. 23 Mar. 1999.

**10. Computer Software**

Rosenberg, Victor, et al. *Pro-Cite*. Vers. 1.3. Computer software. Personal Bibliographic Software, 1987. IBM PC, 256 KB, disk.

**11. A Film**

*Citizen Kane*. Dir. Orson Welles. Perf. Orson Welles, Joseph Cotton, Dorothy Comingore, and Agnes Moorehead. RKO, 1941.

**12. A Videotape, DVD, or Laser Disk**

Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*. Dir. William Schiff. Videocassette. The Mosaic Group, 1987.

**13. Television or Radio Program**

"Prime Suspect 3." Writ. Lynda La Plante. Perf. Helen Lirren. *Mystery* WNET, New York. 28 Apr. 1994.

**14. A Recording**

Boubil, Alain. *Miss Saigon*. Perf. Lea Salonga, Claire Moore, and Jon Pryce. Cond. Martin Koch. Geffen, 1989.

**On-Line Resources:** Web sources are cited much like print sources. If an author's name is given, use it first in your citation. If not then use the title of the Web page. If neither author nor title are given then use the http address. Always include the http address, when the page was last modified (if given), and the date you accessed the information. Examples:

**15. Titled Web Page**

"D-Day: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1944." *The History ChannelOnline*. 1999. History Channel.  
<http://historychannel.com/thisday/today/997690.html>. Accessed: 6/7/02.

**16. Personal Home Page**

Mulry, David. *Composition and Literature*. 2003. Department of English, Odessa College.  
<http://www.odessa.edu/depart/english/dmulry/English-1302.html>. Accessed: 2/26/99.

**17. Article in Online Encyclopedia**

"Hawthorne, Nathaniel." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. 2002. Encyclopedia Britannica: NY,  
<http://www.search.eb.com/>. Accessed: 4/6/01.

- Mr. Verbano chaired the faculty committee & provided a major portion of the effort for the above document which follows the **MLA Manual**.
- IF you want to print a hard copy, you should right click on each hyperlink to remove prior to printing. There is no need to remove hyperlinks prior to electronic submission.