West Library Citation Guide

MLA Citation Style

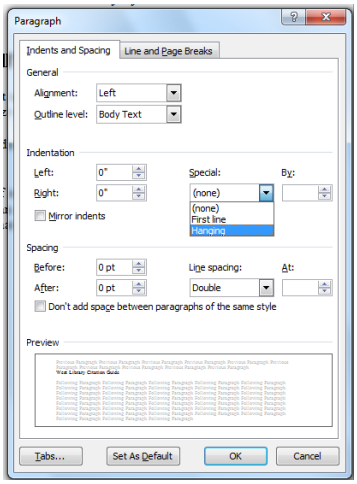
Modern Language Association, 7th edition.

This is intended as a general guide to help you start your works cited page and to help you understand the kind of information you should be keeping track of as you research.

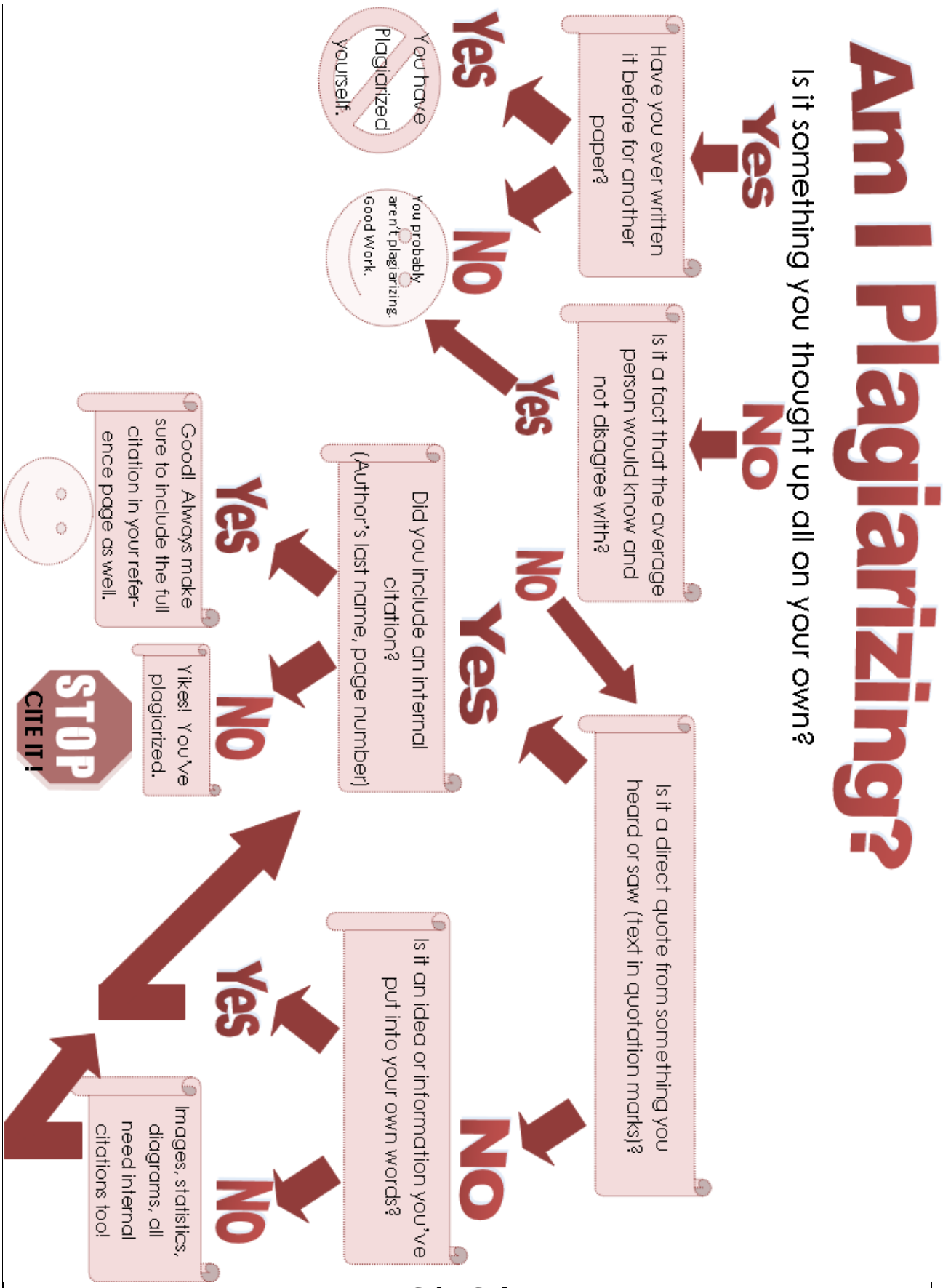
There are a number of other rules, suggestions, and allowances for creating your bibliography. Please consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., which is located behind the Circulation and Reference Desks at the West Library. You can also ask one of the librarians at the Reference Desk or send an email to reference@txwes.edu if you have any questions or need help.

Preparing your Works Cited:

- *Alphabetize* your list based on the last name of the first author or editor listed. If there is no author or editor, alphabetize based on the title of the work, omitting the words *A*, *An*, or *The*.
- Include all materials consulted, including personal interviews and unpublished materials.
- Double Space
- *Use hanging indents*: The first line of each entry is flush with the margin. Following lines are indented. You can do this in Microsoft Word by highlighting your works cited page, going to Format, Paragraph, then selecting "Hanging" from the list of Special Indentations.



This document was created by Kaeli Vandertulip and Kate Wiant for Texas Wesleyan University. It was last updated 8/6/2014.



Color Codes

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Author(s)	Date of Publication	Title Of Book	Title of Article	Title of Periodical
Volume	Pages	Place of Publication	Publisher	Media Type and other information

Citing a Book

In your works cited page:

Single Author (MLA, 5.5.2)

Atwood, Margaret. *Writing with Intent: Essays, Reviews, Personal Prose—1983-2005*. New York: Carroll and Graf, 2005. Print.

Include Title and subtitle of book

Republished Book

A republished book is a book that has been republished without any major revisions, as opposed to books with new editions. For republished books, insert the original publication date before publisher information.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. 1985. New York: Knopf, 2006. Print.

Book Published before 1900

If the book in your hand was published before 1900 (NOT a reprint), you may omit the name of the publisher and use a comma after the place of publication. (MLA 5.5.23)

Dickens, Charles. *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*. Philadelphia, 1840. Print.

Book in a subsequent edition

A book that states which edition of publication it is will generally have significant changes from the first edition. Identify the number (2nd ed., 3rd ed., etc.), by name (Rev. ed for Revised edition, Abr. Ed. For "Abridged edition") or year (2008 ed.)—based on what it indicated on the title page.

Serafin, Steven, ed. *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century*. 2nd ed. 4 vol. Detroit: St. James, 1999. Print.

Multiple Authors (MLA 5.5.4)

For works with 2 or more authors, only reverse the order of the first author's name. For works with 4 or more authors, either list every author or name only the first author followed by ", et al."

Spiller, Robert E., Willard Thorp, Thomas H. Johnson, and Stanley T. Williams. *Literary History of the United States*. New York: Macmillan, 1948. Print.

-OR-

Spiller, Robert E., et al. *Literary History of the United States*. New York: Macmillan, 1948. Print.

Corporate Author

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

Work in an anthology (MLA, 5.5.6)

Lichtenberg, Joseph D. "George Eliot and Dilemmas of the Female Child." *Scenes of Shame: Psychoanalysis, Shame, and Writing*. Ed. Joseph Adamson and Hilary Clark. Albany: State U of New York P, 1999. 101-10. Print.

Work reprinted in a book of literature criticisms (MLA, 5.5.6)

Thompson, Lee Briscoe. "Minuets and Madness: Margaret Atwood's 'Dancing Girls'." *The Art of Margaret Atwood: Essays in Criticism*. Anansi, 1981. 107-22. Rpt. in *Short Story Criticism*. Ed. Sheila Fitzgerald. Vol. 2. Detroit: Gale, 1989. 9-14. Print.

Original citation information can be found at the end of each essay.

Publisher names should be shortened following the guidelines in section 7.5 of the MLA Handbook.

In the text of your paper (MLA, 6.2):

Whenever you are quoting someone or presenting an idea that isn't yours, you need to provide a citation in the text, even if it is not a direct quote. For more information on how and what to cite, please see chapter 2 of the MLA Handbook, or ask a librarian or your professor.

(Author's last name Page Number)

2-3 Authors: (Last name 1, Last name 2, and Last name 3 Page Number)

4 or more authors: (Last name 1 et al. Page Number)

Examples:

The attacks on the World Trade Centers happened while she was writing *Oryx and Crake.* Atwood had to stop writing for several weeks because, she says, "it's deeply unsettling when you're writing about a fictional catastrophe and then a real one happens" (285).

Despite the lessening prominence of the personal essay in favor of analytical articles, they are still common features of literary magazines and newspapers by major authors (Spiller et al. 164).

Citing a Journal Article
In your works cited page:

Haxall, Daniel. "Collage and the Nature of Order: Lee Krasner's Pastoral Vision." *Women's Art Journal* 28.2 (2007): 20-27. Print.
Include volume and issue number, whenever issue is available.

Newspaper Article or weekly news magazine (MLA, 5.4.5):
Riding, Alan. "The Nobel Guessing Game: A Mystery in Literature." *New York Times* 6 Oct. 2004: E3. Print.

Monthly Magazine Article (MLA, 5.4.6):
Bresler, Robert J. "Defense Strategy for the 1990's." *USA Today* Jan . 1989: 7. Print.

For an article found from an online journal from a database, such as Academic Search Complete (MLA, 5.6.4):
Lugo, Jessica. "Blood, Barbarism, and Belly Laughs: Shakespeare's *Titus* and Ovid's Philomela." *English Studies* 88.4 (2007): 401-417. *Academic Search Complete.* Web. 23 Apr. 2008.
Include the title of the database, the medium (web) and the date you accessed the article.

In the text of your paper:
Whenever you are quoting someone or presenting an idea that isn't yours, you need to provide a citation in the text, even if it is not a direct quote.
(Author's last name Page Number)
2-3 Authors: (Last name 1, Last name 2, and Last name 3 Page Number)
4 or more authors: (Last name 1 et al. Page Number)
Example:
Analyzing Krasner's paintings indicates her feelings about both urban dwelling and bucolic ideals (Haxall 24).

Citing a Webpage
In your works cited page (MLA, 5.6.2)
Include as much of the following information as you can find (you may need to look at root pages or on "About this site" pages to find some of the information): 1) the name of the author, 2)title of the work (if there is no title, use descriptor terms such as Home page or Online posting), 3) Title of the site (if different from the title of work) 4) Publisher or sponsor of the site, 5) date of publication, 6) Medium of publication, and 7) date of access.

If the reader could not easily find the site based on this information, or if your professor requires it, include the URL.

Sullivan, Dick. "Stained Glass and Gaslight." *The Victorian Web*. 17 June 2006. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.
Sullivan, Dick. "Stained Glass and Gaslight." *The Victorian Web*. 17 June 2006. Web. 23 Apr. 2008. <http://www.victorianweb.org/art/stainedglass/sullivan.html>.
"Language Map Data Center: Italian." *The Modern Language Association*. 2005. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.

In the text of your paper:

If the website pages are stable and numbered (as in PDF files), include page numbers with the citation. Otherwise, do not.

Sullivan suggests that a key reason for stained glass was to provide color to people whose outside lives were colorless and dreary.

New York is the state with the largest percentage of Italian speakers ("Language").

*Citing a Law Case**

In your works cited page (MLA, 5.7.14)

Include the following information in the citation: 1) The names of the first plaintiff and the first defendant; 2) the volume, name, and inclusive page or reference numbers of the law report cited; 3) the name of the court that decided the case; 4) the year of the decision; and 5) appropriate publication information for the medium consulted (i.e., print book, database, website). It is normal in legal citations to use a lot of abbreviations; however, make sure they are understandable to your audience.

Brown v. Board of Educ. 347 US 483-96. Supreme Court of the US. 1954. *Supreme Court Collection.* Legal Information Inst., Cornell U Law School, n.d. Web. 3 Aug. 2007.

In the text of your paper:

In the case of Brown v. Board of Education, the doctrine of "separate but equal" in regards to public schools was struck down by the US Supreme Court.

The United States Supreme Court has rejected the idea that state-sponsored segregation is permissible if facilities and other resources are "separate but equal" (Brown).

**For all other legal citations, refer to* The Bluebook *legal citation manual, available at the Reference Desk. Because this style uses footnotes, citations will need to be altered to conform to MLA style.*

Formatting the MLA Paper (MLA, ch. 4)

- Font: typically 12 point, Times New Roman or Arial
- Spacing: Double space (turn off extra space between paragraphs)
- Margins: 1" all around
- Professor requirements ALWAYS trump the handbook

Defaults in Microsoft Word 2010 to Change

- Omit double space between paragraphs (Home→Styles→No spacing)
- Font (Home→Font→Times New Roman, 12)
- Margins (Page Layout→Margins→1 inch all around)
- Paragraph Spacing (Home→Paragraph→Spacing, Double)

Headings and Titles

- No title page
- Heading: Left justified
  - Your Name
  - Professor's name
  - Course
  - Date (1 November 2011)
- Title
  - Centered

Headers

- Insert→Header
- Last Name page # (Alt+Shift+P to insert page#)
- ½" from top of page
- Right Justified

The Final Product:

Works Cited

Atwood, Margaret. *Writing with Intent: Essays, Reviews, Personal Prose—1983-2005.* New York: Carroll and Graf, 2005. Print.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. 1985. New York: Knopf, 2006. Print.

Brown v. Board of Educ. 347 US 483-96. Supreme Court of the US. 1954. Supreme Court Collection. Legal Information Inst., Cornell U Law School, n.d. Web. 3 Aug. 2007.

Dickens, Charles. The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby. Philadelphia, 1840. Print.

Haxall, Daniel. "Collage and the Nature of Order: Lee Krasner's Pastoral Vision." *Women's Art Journal* 28.2 (2007): 20-27. Print.

"Language Map Data Center: Italian." *The Modern Language Association*. 2005. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.

Lugo, Jessica. "Blood, Barbarism, and Belly Laughs: Shakespeare's *Titus* and Ovid's Philomela." *English Studies* 88.4 (2007): 401-417. *Academic Search Complete.* Web. 23 Apr. 2009.

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.* 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

Serafin, Steven, ed. Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century. 2nd ed. 4 vol. Detroit: St. James, 1999. Print.

Spiller, Robert E., et al. *Literary History of the United States.* New York: Macmillan, 1948. Print.

Sullivan, Dick. “Stained Glass and Gaslight.” *The Victorian Web*. 17 June 2006. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.

Thompson, Lee Briscoe. “Minuets and Madness: Margaret Atwood’s ‘Dancing Girls’.” *The Art of Margaret Atwood: Essays in Criticism*. Anansi, 1981. 107-22. Rpt. in *Short Story Criticism.* Ed. Sheila Fitzgerald. Vol. 2. Detroit: Gale, 1989. 9-14. Print.