



# Table of Contents

Don't Do Anything Until You Read This! . . . . .	4
1. The Topic: Pointing the Way. . . . .	5
2. Source Records: Spotlight on Sources . . . . .	6
3. Notes: If You Jot It, You've Got It . . . . .	18
4. The Outline: The Bare Bones . . . . .	22
5. The Rough Draft: Write It All Down. . . . .	26
6. Revisions: Smoothing the Rough Draft . . . . .	32
7. Documentation: Acknowledging Sources . . . . .	34
8. The Final Draft: A Fine Finale . . . . .	39
9. The Works Cited: Once Over Rightly . . . . .	42
10. Final Assembly: Putting It All Together . . . . .	45
11. Using Sources Honestly: Plagiarism . . . . .	46
12. Using APA Style: APA Format. . . . .	49
Appendixes	
1. Sample Term Papers . . . . .	52
2. Margin and Spacing Diagrams: Handwritten . . . . .	72
3. Margin and Spacing Diagrams: Typed . . . . .	75
Index . . . . .	78

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# The Topic 1

## Pointing the Way

The success of the term paper depends on a carefully defined topic. Selecting a topic requires considerable thought. Your teacher may suggest some broad topic areas for research. From these, it is up to you to choose a specific area you want to investigate. Make it something that interests you. The work will be much easier if you are motivated by real curiosity.

Within your scope of interest, plan a question about a specific issue or problem you want to investigate. Create and save an electronic file with your question, or write the question on an index card. (See Fig. 1.) From this question, the main idea of your paper (the *thesis*) will emerge. See the examples below.

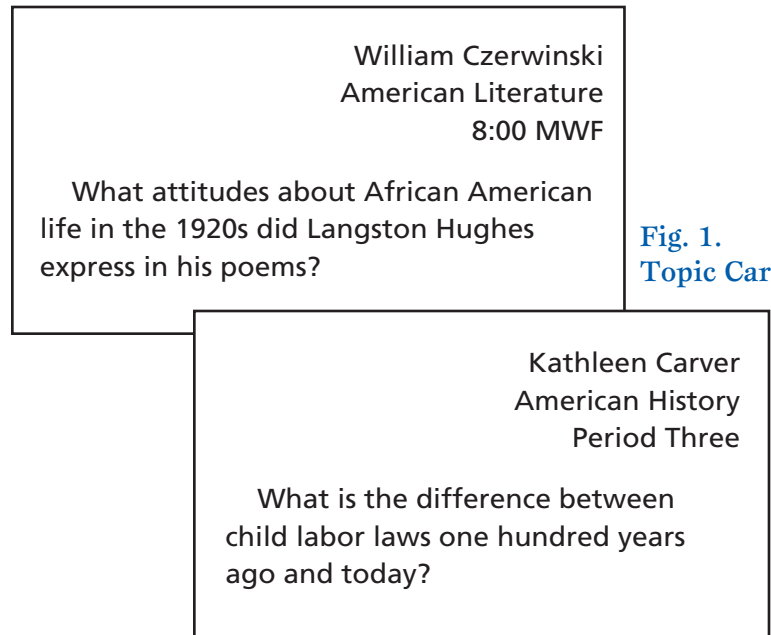


Fig. 1. Topic Cards.

## Reminders

- Keep the subject very limited in scope.
- Write a question, not a title.

Examples of good topics, all limited in scope	Examples of poor topics	Reasons topics don't work
How did Edgar Lee Masters use real people in his <i>Spoon River Anthology</i> ?	Characters in <i>The Spoon River Anthology</i>	This is not a question.
What influence did Twain's river background have on his writing?	What happens on the Mississippi River in <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> ?	No problem is stated; the paper would merely recount events.
What themes run throughout S. E. Hinton's novels?	Who is S. E. Hinton?	This is not really a question, just an excuse for a biography.
Did Rosalind Franklin face prejudice while researching DNA?	What did Rosalind Franklin discover?	Too easy.
How did the Underground Railroad operate?	How has the Underground Railroad influenced life in our time?	Too difficult. Research material would probably be too hard to locate.
What is global warming, and how do we stop it?	What is global warming?	Too broad. This needs an explanation and ideas for a resolution.

# 2 Source Records

## Spotlight on Sources

List every book, article, or other reference where you find information or background material for your paper. You may record your sources on a computer, a laptop, or tablet. As you compile your sources, enter all the information into your computer file. To correct stored entries or to add new sources to the list, retrieve the file, make the changes, and save the new file. Keep a backup in both electronic and print form.

Your teacher may instead require you to record your sources on 3" × 5" index cards, or *source cards*. The format for recording the publication information by hand is the same as the electronic format except for the use of underlines as a substitute for italics.

The method you use to record your sources is not as important as having the source clearly identified. You'll need that information to acknowledge sources both within your paper and in a *works cited* section at the end.

When should you record information from a source? After you decide a source has good information and before you take a single note. This habit will save you from having to retrace your steps later to find the missing information. Sources should always be listed accurately and completely.

## What to Record

Before you take any notes from a source, record all of the following information:

- author(s)
- editor(s) or translator(s), if any
- title (including subtitle)
- edition (for instance, 4th or abridged) if needed
- place published
- publisher
- date published
- page numbers, if you're using only one item from a larger work
- medium (print, DVD, Web site)
- for a Web site, date of access

(See Fig. 2.)

Sometimes you may conduct interviews or write letters or e-mails to get information. When you do, note the name of your source, the person's position, the type of correspondence, and the date of contact.

## Abbreviating Publishers' Names

Shorten or abbreviate publishers' names whenever possible using the following rules:

- Use traditional abbreviations where appropriate.
- Leave out articles, business abbreviations, and descriptive words such as *Books*, *Press*, and *House*.

## Reminders

- Use reverse indentation.
- Follow the punctuation in the model exactly.
- Put the author's last name first.
- Italicize the title, or underline it if writing by hand.
- Place a period after the last item.
- Don't abbreviate (except for publishers' names) unless a word is abbreviated on the title page.

## Hints

When you're using the Web for research, record the date you found the information.

Before you quote an e-mail message or newsgroup posting, ask the sender's permission.

- Use only the last name of a company named for one person. (For example, *Knopf* instead of *Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.*)
- Use only the first name of a company named for more than one person. (For example, *Holt* for *Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Inc.*)
- Use *U* and *P* for *University* and *Press* (*U of Illinois P*, for example).

## Missing Information

If the place of publication or publisher is not shown in the work, indicate this lack of information. Write *n.p.*, which means *no place*, before the colon, or *n.p.*, which means *no publisher*, after the colon, in the appropriate place. (See Fig. 3.)

If the date of publication is not shown, write *n.d.*, meaning *no date*, in place of the date. If the material has no page numbers,

write *n. pag.*, meaning *no paging*. (See Fig. 3.) Note: Capitalization of abbreviations will depend upon placement.

If the author's name does not appear on the source material, begin the entry with the title. (See Fig. 3.)

## Source Record Formats

The next pages show different types of source records. You'll find explanations of each type in the wide columns and examples in the narrow columns. The examples show the basic format for each type of record if you are using a computer. If you are creating source cards by hand, use underlining instead of *italics*.

The formats are arranged in the order you are most likely to need them. **You won't need every form. Look up the forms as you need them.**

Ogilvy, David. *Confessions of an Advertising Man*. London: Southbank, 2004. Print.

Chandran, K. "Endosomal Proteolysis of the Ebola Virus Glycoprotein Is Necessary for Infection." Ed. James M. Cunningham. *Science* 14 Apr. 2005. Web. 4 Apr. 2011.

Fig 2. Source records for a book and an Internet site.

*Drug Abuse: The Empty Life*. N.p.: n.p., n.d. N. pag. Print.

Fig. 3. Source record with missing information.

## Hints

If you make photocopies from a book, make a copy of the title page too. Write in the date of publication (usually found on the back of the title page). Write down the library call number in case you want to refer to the book again.

When you photocopy magazine articles, make sure that you have all of the information you need. If the article is continued, it's easy to miss the last page or pages. Write your source record before you photocopy.

# Books and Pamphlets

## Model

**Author's last name, First name. *Title of Book or Pamphlet: Including Subtitle.* City of publication: Publisher, date of publication. Medium of publication.**

### Edition Information

Berkman, Robert I. *Find It Fast: How to Uncover Expert Information on Any Subject Online or in Print.* 5th ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2000. Print.

### Two Publishers

Chang, Ina. *A Separate Battle: Women and the Civil War.* New York: Penguin; Toronto: McClelland, 1991. Print.

### No Individual Author

New York Public Library American History Desk *Reference.* New York: MacMillan, 1997. Print.

### Translator

*Beowulf.* Trans. Burton Raffel. New York: Signet-Penguin, 1999. Print.

### Editors

Faulkner, William. *Country Lawyer and Other Stories for the Screen.* Eds. Louis Daniel Brodsky and Robert W. Hamblin. Jackson: U of Mississippi P, 1987. Print.

## Explanation

### One Author

Most of your sources will probably be written by one author. (See Fig. 2 on the previous page.) To create the source record, look at the title page. Write the author's last name, followed by a comma, then the first name, followed by a period. Next, write the title (including any subtitle), italicize it (or underline if writing by hand), and place a period after it. If the work has been revised or abridged, give the edition number or description next. Then add the city of publication, a colon, the publisher, a comma, the date of publication, a period, and the medium of publication. End with a period.

- ☛ You do not need to list any degrees that follow the author's name, but do include distinctions like *Jr.* or *III.*
- ☛ If more than one city is mentioned, give only the name of the first city mentioned. If more than one publisher is mentioned, list all publishers mentioned in the order given. Separate the publishers with a semicolon.
- ☛ Publishers often group books together under an imprint, such as Crime Club or Vintage. If you see an imprint on the title page, write the imprint, followed by a hyphen and the publisher's name: Vintage-Random, for example.

### Author as Editor or Translator

When many editors have prepared different versions of a work for publication, mentioning the editor's name is one way to specify the edition you used. When a work has been translated into English, you should identify the translator.

First write the author's name (last name first), period, the title (italicized, or underlined if you are working by hand), and a period. If the author's name is not known, begin the entry with the title of the work.

Then write the abbreviation *Ed.* (for editor) or *Trans.* (for translator). Continue with the editor's or translator's name (first name first) and a period. Finally, write the city of publication, a colon, the publisher, a comma, the date of publication, a period, the medium of publication, and a period.

## Explanation

### Editor of an Anthology

You don't need to list all of the authors whose works are collected in an anthology. Begin the entry with the name(s) of the editor(s) who chose the different works, a comma, ed., and a period.

### Multiple Authors

If a work has two or three authors, list each author by name. Begin with the first author's last name, followed by a comma, then the first name, followed by a comma and the other authors' names separated by commas. Give the remaining authors' names first name first. (See Fig. 4.)

If a work has more than three authors, you may list all the authors or give the first author's name, followed by a comma and the words *et al* in regular type. (*Et al* comes from a Latin phrase meaning "and others.")

### Corporate Author

Sometimes the author credited is not an individual person, but a company, committee, or organization. If the corporate name is not included in the title, list the group as the author. If the corporate name is included in the title, begin with the title.

### Sacred Texts

Cite sacred texts, such as the Bible or the Koran, as books; however, do not italicize or underline the title.

Capinera, John L., Ralph D. Scott, and Thomas J. Walker. *Field Guide to Grasshoppers, Katydid, and Crickets of the United States*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2005. Print.

Fig. 4. Source record for a book with multiple authors.

## Model

### Anthology

Hong, Maria, ed. *Growing Up Asian American: An Anthology*. New York: Morrow, 1993. Print.

### Four or More Authors

Brickman, Rick, et al. *Dealing with People You Can't Stand: How to Bring Out the Best in People at Their Worst*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002. Print.

### Collaborators

X, Malcolm, with Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Grove, 1964. Print.

### Corporate Author's Name Not in Title


American Medical Women's Association. *Guide to Nutrition and Wellness*. New York: Dell, 1996. Print.

### Corporate Author's Name in Title

*Rodale Organic Gardening Solutions*. Emmaus: Rodale, 2000. Print.

### Sacred Texts

The Revised English Bible Standard Text Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2002. Print.

 *The MLA Handbook* contains a list of abbreviations for books of the Bible.



# Magazines and Newspapers

## Model

## Explanation

### Popular Magazine Articles

**Author's last name, First name. "Article Title." *Magazine Title* [day] month year: page numbers. Medium.**

Bennett, Lerone, Jr. "Harriet Tubman's Private War." *Ebony* Mar. 2005: 50B-50G. Print.

Sedgewick, John. "Junk Medicine—Sorting the Truth from the Trash." *Self* Aug. 1997: 144+. Print.

### Articles in Popular Magazines

Begin with the author's name (if known). Next write the title of the article in quotation marks and add a period. Then write the magazine title and italicize it. Add the publication information. (Abbreviate any month that is more than four letters long.) After the date, put a colon, followed by the page number(s) and a period. Finally, indicate the medium. End with a period.

- ☛ If no author is credited, begin with the title.
- ☛ Some magazine articles are broken into more than two sections. For example, an article might begin on page 5, continue on page 33, and end on page 39. In such cases, list the first page only and a plus sign (5+).

### Academic Journal Articles

**Author's last name, First name. "Article Title." *Magazine Title* volume. [issue number if the volume is not paginated continuously] (year of publication): beginning page—ending page [if consecutive]. Medium.**

#### Article in a Journal Paged Consecutively

Murphy, Richard. "Anorexia: The Cheating Disorder." *College English* (1996): 898–903. Print.

#### Article in a Journal Not Paged Consecutively

Stemer, Michael. "Closing the Gate: The Persian Gulf War Revisited." *Current History* 96 (1997): 13–19. Print.

### Articles in Scholarly Journals

Why are there different formats for popular and academic magazines? To look up popular magazines like *Sports Illustrated* or *Glamour*, all you need to know is the date of publication. Academic journals are bound by volume, so you also need to know the volume and issue number.

How can you tell which format to use? Popular magazines provide general background information. Academic or scholarly journals are written for experts. When in doubt, write down everything you might need: date of publication and volume, issue, and page numbers.

- ☛ Use the scholarly format if a magazine
  - is published by a university.
  - has no ads for commercial products.
  - numbers pages consecutively throughout the year.
  - is indexed in specialized academic indexes such as the *Social Sciences and Humanities Index*.

### Newspaper Article

**Author's last name, First name. "Article Title." *Newspaper Title* [City of publication if not in title] day Month year, edition (or section): page information. Medium.**

### Articles in Newspapers

If the article has a byline, begin with the author's name. Give the article title in quotation marks, followed by a period. Then write the name of the newspaper and italicize it. If the city in which the paper is published is not in the title, give the name of the city enclosed in brackets; for example, *Globe and Mail* [Toronto]. Use no punctuation between the

## Explanation

name of the newspaper and the date of publication. Put a colon after the date, followed by section and page information. Complete the record with the medium of publication.

- ☞ Omit introductory articles such as *the* in a newspaper's name. If the paper has more than one edition, give the edition after the date. Also include the section number and page number(s) (6 Jan. 2011, late ed., sec. 4: 34+).
- ☞ You need not cite the city of publication for nationally published newspapers.

## Editorials

Begin references to signed editorials with the author's name. If the editorial is unsigned, begin with the title. After the title, put the word *Editorial*, capitalized and followed by a period. End with the publication information.

## Letters to the Editor

Begin with the author's name. Write *Letter*, followed by a period. Then give the publication information.

- ☞ Some letters may be written in reply to letters that have already been published. In that case, write *Reply to letter of (previous author's name)* instead of *Letter*.

## Reviews

Begin references to signed reviews with the reviewer's name. If the review is unsigned but has a title, begin with the title. If the review is unsigned and untitled, begin with *Rev. of*. Then write the title of the work reviewed, followed by a comma, the word *by* and the author's name, and publication information.

- ☞ If more than one work is reviewed, separate the titles by commas. Place the word *and* in front of the final title.
- ☞ If the work is by someone other than an author—an editor, translator, or director, for example—use the abbreviation *ed.*, *trans.*, or *dir.*, as appropriate.
- ☞ When citing a review of a film or theatre work, add information about the production.

## Model

### Articles in Newspapers (cont'd)

Hymowitz, Carol. "The Perils of Picking CEOs." *Wall Street Journal* 15 Mar. 2005: B1+. Print.

Bigness, Jon. "Cars Evolve into Rolling Computers." *Chicago Tribune* 15 Sept. 1997: B1+. Print.

### Journal Editorial

Crispell, Diane. "Of Data Paralysis, Slugs, and TV Ratings." Editorial. *American Demographics* 19.3 (1997): 2. Print.

### Newspaper Editorial

"'Huge Changes' for Schools." Editorial. *Chicago Sun-Times* 14 Apr. 2011: 19. Print.

### Letter to the Editor in a Magazine

Reichman, Lee B. Letter. *New Yorker* 1 Nov. 2004: 8. Print.

Schneider, David. Reply to letter of William J. LeNoble and Charles S. Springer, Jr. *Scientific American* Oct. 1997: 8. Print.

### Letter to the Editor in a Newspaper

Blazer, Gregory H. "Miss America More Than Swimsuit." Letter. *USA Today* 11 Sept. 1997: 14A. Print.

### Review in a Magazine

Brooke, David. Rev. of *John Wayne's America: The Politics of Celebrity*, by Garry Wills. *Commentary* July 1997: 59–60. Print.

### Review of More Than One Work

Gornick, Vivian. "Lost in America." Rev. of *Other People's Houses* and *Her First American*, by Lore Segal. *The Nation* 13 Dec. 2004: 26–30. Print.

### Review of a Film or Theatre Production

Schickel, Richard. "The Human Face of Evil." Rev. of *Downfall*, dir. Oliver Hirschbiegel. *Time* 21 Mar. 2005: 75. Print.



# Parts of a Whole

## Model

Hall, Michael. "Running for His Life." *Best American Sports Writing*. Ed. Richard Ben Cramer. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2004. 72–85. Print.

## Explanation

### Articles from Anthologies

Write the article's author (last name first), a period, the title (in quotation marks), and a period (inside the quotation marks). Follow with the title of the book, italicized, and a period. Next write the abbreviation *Ed.* (or *Eds.*, for more than one editor) and the editor's name (first name first), followed by a period. Write the city of publication, a colon, the publisher, a comma, the date of publication, a period, page numbers, a period, and the publication medium.

### Familiar Work

"Bollywood." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 11th ed. 2003. Print.

"Holocaust." *New Standard Encyclopedia*. New York: Ferguson Publishing. 2000. Print.

### Signed Article

Brody, Jane. "Hypertension." *New York Times Guide to Essential Knowledge*. New York: St. Martin's, 2004. Print.

### Articles from Reference Works

Articles in reference works or entries in dictionaries follow the same general format as articles in an anthology. Editors' names, however, are not included. If entries are arranged alphabetically, you do not need to include page or volume numbers.

✎ For familiar reference works, especially those that are published every year, list only the edition (if applicable) and the year of publication. If a reference book has appeared in only one edition, provide complete publication information.

✎ If an article is signed, list the author's name before the article, last name first. (The name of the author of an encyclopedia article usually follows the article.)

### Multivolume Reference

Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuke. "Colors." *Contemporary American Autobiography Series*. Vol. 16. New York: Gale, 1972. Print.

### Book with More Than One Volume

Deming, Robert H., ed. *James Joyce: The Critical Heritage*. 2 vols. London: Routledge, 1970. Print.

### Multiple Volume Works

For one book in a multivolume work, include the number of the volume used after the title. Then give the publishing information for the volume. If you used more than one volume, give the total number of volumes in the work ("8 vols.") before the publication information. In your Works Cited list (see page 42), no page numbers will be needed for works organized alphabetically, but note the page numbers on your source cards so you can cite them accurately within your paper.

### Foreword

Terkel, Studs. Foreword. *Bridges of Memory: Chicago's First Wave of Black Migration*. By Timvel D. Black, Jr. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 2003. ix–x. Print.

### A Foreword, Preface, or Afterword

When someone other than the author writes a foreword, preface, or afterword, begin with the name of the person writing the piece, followed by a period. Then write the kind of writing it is, followed by a period. Write the title and a period. Then write *By* and the author of the book, first name first. Follow with the place of publication, the publisher, date, and page numbers cited. If the writer of the piece is also the author of the book, use only the last name after *By*. If the text has a title, put it in quotes, then name the kind of writing.

# Government Publications

## Explanation

Official U.S. government publications cover almost every subject imaginable, from water pollution to auto crash tests. Government Web sites cover out-of-this-world subjects as well; you can view photos from space probes at several NASA-sponsored sites.

When you cite a government document, begin with the author's name, if known. If the author is not known, name the government that produced the document (for example, *California* or *United Nations*). Then give the name of the government agency that produced the document, followed by a period. Next comes the title, which is italicized. Relevant information about the document follows, separated by commas. Usually, all you will need is the type and number of the publication. For laws and Congressional hearings, however, include the bill or session number and the session of Congress. Always include the format as well.

👁️ These abbreviations are helpful when referring to U.S. government publications.

H.—House

S.—Senate

*Cong. Rec.*—*Congressional Record* (Italicize this source and give only the title, date, and page numbers.)

Dept.—department

Doc.—document

GPO—Government Printing Office

Rept.—report

Res.—resolution, as in S. Res. 20

Sess.—session

## Model

**Author's name, if known. Name of government agency. *Title*. Relevant information, such as the type and number of the publication. Place, publisher, date, and medium.**

### Bulletin

United States. Dept. of Labor. *Occupational Outlook Handbook: 2010–11*. Bulletin 2800. Washington: GPO, 2010. Print.

### Legislation-in-process

United States. Cong. Senate. "Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act of 2011." 112th Congress, 1st sess. S. 319. *Thomas: Legislative Information on the Internet*. Lib. of Cong., 10 Feb. 2011. Web. 15 Apr. 2011.

### Report

United States. National Institutes of Health. *Changing Adolescent Smoking Prevalence*. Journal of the National Cancer Institute. Monograph 14. Washington: GPO, 2001. Print.

### Survey

United States. Dept. of Justice. *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2003*. A National Crime Victimization Survey Report, NCJ-162126. Washington: GPO, 2003. Print.

## Hints

There are two federal Web sites:

- FedWorld Information Network <<http://www.fedworld.gov>>
- National Technical Information Service <<http://www.ntis.gov>>



Government publications are indexed in the *Monthly Catalog of United States Publications* and the *Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS) Bulletin*.

Information about foreign governments can be obtained from their embassies or from Web sites such as Wikipedia.org and the *CIA World Factbook* <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>>.

# Nonprint Resources

## Model

## Explanation

<p><b>Artist's last name, First name. <i>Title</i>.</b>  <b>[Date.] Medium. Institution that houses the work or Owner, City.</b></p> <p><b>Painting</b></p> <p>Maclise, Daniel. <i>The Play Scene in "Hamlet."</i>          1842. Oil on canvas. Tate Gallery, London.</p>	<p><b>Artwork</b></p> <p>Begin with the artist's name (last name first). Then give the work's title, the date of publication, and the medium (such as lithograph). End with the location of the work.</p> <p> If no date is given, write N.d.</p>
<p><b>CD-ROM Reference Work</b></p> <p><i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i>, 11th ed. Springfield, Mass: Merriam-Webster, 2003. CD-ROM.</p>	<p><b>CD-ROMs and Digital Files</b></p> <p>Cite a reference in CD-ROM format as if it were a book, but include CD-ROM after the date. For other digital files, write the file format (such as PDF) and the word <i>file</i>: PDF file.</p>
<p><b>Author's last name, First name. "Title."</b>  <b><i>Original Source</i> date: [page(s)].</b>  <b><i>Database</i>. Web. Access date.</b></p> <p><b>Article from a Database</b></p> <p>Witham, Larry. "Before Scopes." <i>Washington Times</i>. 28 Aug. 2011: B04. <i>Questia</i>. Web. 21 Apr. 2011.</p>	<p><b>Databases</b></p> <p>Databases allow you to search and retrieve articles, often from thousands of journals and magazines available online. To cite an article from a database, begin with the author's name (last name first). After the article title, give the name of the original source (italicized) and the date of publication, followed by a colon and page numbers. (Use n. pag. if there are no page numbers.) Then name the database (italicized) followed by a period. Next write Web with a period and the date you accessed the file.</p>
<p><b>Film/Videos/DVDs</b></p> <p>Wasikowska, Mia. perf. <i>Jane Eyre</i>. Dir. Cary Fukunaga. BBC Films, 2011. Film.</p> <p>Matheson, Richard, adapt. <i>Dracula</i>. By Bram Stoker. Dir. Dan Curtis. Perf. Jack Palance. MPI Home Video, 1974. Videocassette.</p> <p><i>The Man on the Train</i>. Dir. Patrice Leconte. Paramount, 2003. DVD.</p>	<p><b>Films and Videos</b></p> <p>Citations for films, filmstrips, DVDs, or videotapes usually begin with the title. If you are discussing an individual's work, however, begin with that person's name (last name first), followed by the title of the work. Then name the director, followed by a period. List the distributor, followed by a comma, and the date of release.</p> <p> Other relevant information, such as performers (perf.), adapter (adapt.), writers, and the original release date, may be given after you identify the director. Include the medium (film, DVD, laser disc) at the end.</p>
<p><b>Interview</b></p> <p>Greenside, Mark. Personal interview. 8 Feb. 2011.</p>	<p><b>Interviews</b></p> <p>Give the name of the person you talked with (last name first). Write <i>Personal interview</i>, followed by a period. End with the date of the interview.</p>

## Explanation

### Performances

Live performances are cited like films. Include the date and location of the performance. End with the word *performance*.

### Sound Recordings

The first name you list should be the name of the person you want to emphasize (last name first). If you're discussing the music in *Oklahoma!*, you might want to begin with the composer. If your focus is on character development or theme, beginning with the lyricist would make sense.

👉 Always include the medium of the recording.

👉 You may find these abbreviations helpful.

Cond.—conducted by

LP—long-playing record

Orch.—orchestra

Perf.—performed by

Rec.—recorded

### Speeches

Give the speaker's name (last name first). Give the title of the speech, the city where the speech was given, the date, and the medium (Address). Use a period after each item.

### Television or Radio Programs

If a program aired in several episodes, give the title of the episode in quotation marks. Then give the program title, italicized. If the program is part of a series, name the series. Identify the network, the call letters and city of the broadcast station, the broadcast date, and the medium (Radio, Television).

👉 If you are discussing the work of a particular person, begin the entry with that person's name. For example, in a paper about Orson Welles, you might cite *The War of the Worlds* broadcast as follows.

Welles, Orson, dir. "The War of the Worlds." By H.G. Wells. *Mercury Theatre on the Air*. CBS Radio. WCBS, New York: 30 Oct. 1938. Radio.

## Model

### Stage Performance

*Riverdance*. Dir. John McCoolgan. Fox Theater, Detroit, MI. 20 May 2005. Performance.

**Author or performer. ["Song" or "Scene."] *Title of recording*. [Additional performers or writers.] **Date of recording. Manufacturer, year of release. Medium.****

### Song on CD

Byrne, David. "Little Apocalypse." *Growing Backwards*. Nonesuch, 2004. CD.

### Play on Audiocassette

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Perf. Kenneth Branagh and Renaissance Shakespeare Company. Rec. Jan. 1992. Bantam, 1992. Audiocassettes.

### Opera on Long-Playing Record

Verdi, Giuseppe, composer. *Macbeth*. Lyrics by Francesco Maria Piave after William Shakespeare. RCA Victor, 1959. LP.

### Speech

Clinton, Bill. "Second Inaugural Address." Washington, D.C. 20 Jan. 1997. Address.

### Television Broadcast

"The New Asylums" *Frontline*. PBS. WGBH, Boston. 10 May 2005. Television.

### Television Series

"Middlemarch." By George Eliot. Dir. Anthony Pope. 6 episodes. *Masterpiece Theatre*. PBS. WGBH, Boston. 10 Apr.–15 May 1994. Television.

### Radio Broadcast

"The War of the Worlds." By H.G. Wells. *Mercury Theatre on the Air*. CBS Radio. WCBS, New York. 30 Oct. 1938. Radio.

# Online Sources

## Model

**Author's last name, First name. "Title."  
Web. Date site was visited.**

### E-mail Messages

Ross, Nathan. "Re: Butler Act query."  
Message to the author. 8 Jan. 2004.  
E-mail.

Kristov, Sam. "Academic Eligibility." Message  
to Sports and Academics Committee, State  
High School Athletic Association, Des  
Moines, IA. 2 Feb. 2005. E-mail.

### Online Interview

Shostak, Seth. Interview by Dave Mosher.  
*Discovery Space*. Discovery Channel. n.d.  
Web. 21 Apr. 2011.

### Online Posting

Slater, Sara. Online posting. *Ask an Astronomer  
at Cornell University*. 14 Jan. 2005. Web.  
5 Dec. 2005.

## Hints

URL means online address. The letters stand  
for Uniform Resource Locator.

Many online sources provide suggestions  
about how to cite their information. You may  
need to adapt the format to follow MLA style.

**Author's last name, First name. "Article  
Title." Name of electronic journal  
volume or issue number (Year of  
publication): Page numbers. (or n.  
pag.) Web. Date of access.**

Mitler, Merrill M., et al. "The Sleep of Long-Haul  
Truck Drivers." *The New England Journal of  
Medicine On-Line* 337.11 (1997): n. pag.  
Web. 17 Sept. 1997. <[http://www.nejm.org/  
public/1997/0337/0011/0755/1.htm](http://www.nejm.org/public/1997/0337/0011/0755/1.htm)>.


## Explanation

### Internet Sources

When citing Internet sources, give the author's name followed by a period. If no author is given, begin with the title (italicized if it stands alone, in roman type and quotation marks if part of a larger work) followed by a period. Follow that with the publisher or sponsor (use N. p. if none is given), the date of publication (or n.d. if none is given), and the word *Web* with a period. End with the date you visited the site, followed by a period. Including the actual Web address is no longer recommended, since sites can change so often. Include a Web address only if you think the reader would have trouble finding it another way. The Web address follows the date of access and is enclosed in angle brackets. If it takes up more than one line, break it only after the double slashes or a single slash, and never use a hyphen. (See the last example to the left.)

### E-mails and Postings


To cite e-mail messages and online postings, give the author's name, followed by a period. Give the title of the e-mail or posting (if any) in quotation marks and a description of the message that indicates the recipient. Give the date of the e-mail or posting, followed by a period, and the name of the forum (if any), followed by a period. End with the date of access and the medium (E-mail, Online posting) followed by a period.

 References to e-mail should include a description of the document that identifies the recipient. When you cite personal e-mail, you may use the phrase *Message to the author*.

### Electronic Journals

*E-journals*, or electronic journals, are academic journals that are published online. Some may also appear in print.

Begin with the author's name (last name first) and the article title in quotation marks. Give the name of the journal (italicized) followed by the volume number, the issue number, and the date of publication in parentheses, followed by a colon. Give the number of pages, paragraphs, or other sections in the article. Then write *Web*. (without italics) and give the date on which you visited the site, followed by a period.

 If the article has numbered paragraphs, put a colon after the date of publication and give the number of paragraphs; for example, (2005): 5 pars.




## Explanation

### Online Newspapers and Magazines


Many periodicals now publish online versions that let subscribers keep up with breaking news. Even better, many have archives that you can search online.

Begin with the usual author and title information. Then give the name of the publication, which may be the same as the print newspaper or may include words like *Online*. Italicize the title and place a period after it. Then give the original publication date, followed by a period. Next, to indicate the medium, write *Web*. (with no italics) and give the date you accessed the text.

 If section and page numbers are available, put a colon after the original publication date. Then give the section and page numbers, followed by a period.


### Online Books and Articles with Print Versions

To cite a book or article found online, give the name of the author, compiler, translator, or editor, using abbreviations such as *Comp.*, *Trans.*, or *Ed.*, if applicable. Italicize the title and follow it with a period. Give the original place of publication, followed by a colon. Give the publisher's name and the date. Identify in italics the database or Web site where the work is archived, follow it with a period, and indicate the medium (*Web*). Give the date you accessed the text followed by a period.

 If you are citing only part of an online book, insert the title or name of the part between the author's name and the book's title. If the title is an essay or a poem, put the title in quotation marks.

### Web Sites

To cite a file you found on the Web, begin with the usual author and title information if available. Next give the title of the overall Web site if it is different from the first title. Follow that with the publisher's or sponsor's name. If it is not known, write N.p. Next give the date the document was created or updated followed by a period. Use n.d. if no date is available. Indicate the medium (*Web*) followed by a period and end with the date you visited the site and a period.

 Citation style for referring to electronic sources is still evolving. You can use a search engine such as Google to find free citation makers that are usually kept up to date. These online tools take the basic information you provide about your source and then create a citation for it that follows the Modern Language Association and other style guidelines. They are not perfect, however, so be sure to double check each citation generated this way.

## Model

**Author's last name, First name.**  
**"Article Title." Name of publication. Original publication date. Web. Date of access.**

Parker, Phil. "LANL Scientists Work on Fuel Cells." *ABQJournal*. 22 Apr. 2011. Web. 2 June 2011.

**Author's last name, First name. [Ed., Comp., or Trans. if applicable.]**  
**Text Title. Original place of publication: Publisher, Date. Title of database or Web site. Web. Date of access.**

Sandburg, Carl. "Chicago." *Chicago Poems*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1916. *Bartleby.com: Great Books Online*. Web. 21 Apr. 2005.

**Author's last name, First name.**  
**"Title." Title of overall Web site. Publisher or sponsor. Date. Web. Date of your visit.**

Clark, Liesl. "Ice Mummies of the Inca." *Nova*. Public Broadcasting Service. Nov. 2000. Web. 14 Oct. 2008.

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"Hamlet's Crawl." *Shakespeare Illustrated*. Department of English, Emory University. n.d. Web. 8 Feb. 2010.





Outlines . . . . . 22-25

Page numbers. . . . . 41

Plagiarism . . . . . 31, 46-48

Publishers' names, abbreviations of . . . . . 6

Quotations in block form . . . . . 28, 36, 37

Revisions checklist. . . . . 32, 33

Rough drafts . . . . . 26-31

Source records for

- anthologies . . . . . 9
- anthology articles . . . . . 12
- artworks . . . . . 14
- CD-ROMs and digital files. . . . . 14
- corporate authors . . . . . 9
- databases . . . . . 14
- DVDs, films, and videos . . . . . 14
- edited works . . . . . 8
- editorials . . . . . 11
- electronic journals . . . . . 16
- e-mails and postings . . . . . 16
- government documents . . . . . 13
- interviews . . . . . 14
- letters to the editor . . . . . 11
- magazine articles . . . . . 10
- media sources. . . . . 14, 15
- missing information . . . . . 7
- more than one author . . . . . 9
- newspaper articles . . . . . 10, 11
- nonprint sources . . . . . 14, 15
- online communications. . . . . 16
- online newspapers . . . . . 17
- online sources. . . . . 16, 17
- online texts . . . . . 17
- performances . . . . . 15
- radio broadcasts . . . . . 15
- recordings . . . . . 15
- reference works . . . . . 12
- reviews. . . . . 11
- sacred texts . . . . . 9



speeches . . . . .	15
television programs . . . . .	15
translated works . . . . .	8
two or more authors . . . . .	9
two or more volumes . . . . .	12
Web sites . . . . .	17
Tables . . . . .	29
Title page . . . . .	39, 40, 73, 76
Topic cards . . . . .	5
Works cited, list of . . . . .	22, 38, 42–44, 50–51, 61, 71, 74, 77
Writing the body . . . . .	27
Writing the conclusion . . . . .	30
Writing the introduction . . . . .	27