Examples of MLA Works Cited Format for most common situations

Overall, remember to
- format each entry with “hanging indent”
- alphabetize entries by the first word(s) in the entry
- check anything you aren’t sure of in a handbook

Book by a single author (or multiple authors collaborating):


Notice: No page numbers are included, even if you did not read the entire book.

A citation of this source in your paper would look like this: (Brown and Butcher 47).

Essay in a collection (book, but different authors for specific chapters):


Notice: Page numbers are included here, since you are citing only the article by Singer, not the entire collection. If you will be citing more than one article from a collection, you will need a separate Works Cited entry for each one.

A citation of this source in your paper would look like this: (Singer 115).

How to know the difference:

Look at the table of contents. A regular book (single author or collaboration) will list chapter titles. A collection of essays will list authors’ names with essay titles. The database information you may have used to find the source can also tell you this.

Online Chaucer Bibliography entries for these examples look like this:

Author: Brown, Peter, and Andrew Butcher.
Title: *The Age of Saturn: Literature and History in the Canterbury Tales.*

Author: Singer, Margaret.
Title: ““Aventure’ or ‘Grace’: Lucky in Love in the ‘Franklin’s Tale’.”
MLA biblio entries for the same (note the publication type):

Title: The Age of Saturn: Literature and History in the Canterbury Tales
Authors: Brown, Peter; Butcher, Andrew
Document Information: Publication Type: book

Title: Aventure or Grace: Lucky in Love in the Franklin's Tale
Authors: Singer, Margaret
Document Information: Publication Type: book article

Other information that may apply to some books:

- an edition other than the first
- a book in a series, a translation
- a book in more than one volume.

A good handbook with MLA Works Cited models will show you how to handle these. You may need to mix and match more than one model.

An article in a journal:


This example is an annual publication, so there is a volume number, but no issue number. If there is an issue number, include that.


Notice that one always includes page numbers for journal articles. Page numbers are inclusive (i.e., they cover the entire article, regardless of what pages you will cite in your paper).

Citations of these sources in your paper would look like this: (Seaman 52) or (Choi 231).

If you get an article electronically, add the name of the database (if any) and a URL or doi. Only include URLs if they are stable; look for a “permalink” when in a database. (Don’t copy and paste the address in your browser for articles in databases, as these are usually valid for your session only.)

If you get articles electronically as a pdf, you can still cite using page numbers. Don’t use page numbers for html documents, as these are not stable. Some online publications will number paragraphs; in this case, you can cite by paragraph numbers, e.g. (Doe, par. 12).

Citing the Bible:

Include the version of the Bible you are quoting from on your Works Cited list. The first time you need to cite it, include the version in the citation, followed by the book, chapter and verse. Subsequent quotations can refer only to book, chapter, and verse.

Example:

The NSRV Bible with the Apocrypha. Oxford UP, 1995. – alphabetized by “NSRV”

Citation: (NSRV Bible, Gen. 2.1-3). Note that books of the Bible are not underlined or in quotation marks, and can be abbreviated. Subsequent citations can use just the book, chapter, and verse, omitting the edition/translation.

Material on the Internet

In general, treat materials found on the internet as much like more traditional sources as possible: author’s name first (you make have to do some exploring around a site to find this), title of page, title of larger site, etc. Include a date of publication/posting if available. If the material has previously been published, give that information (if available). End the entry with the URL and date of access.

Example:


Cite in your paper as (Benson). Don’t refer to page numbers, since these are not fixed.

See next page for resources.
The UWSP library has a good handout with most of the basic models, at <http://libraryguides.uwsp.edu/ld.php?content_id=14750837>

The MLA’s MLA Style page at <https://style.mla.org/> has a quick guide, a page of answered questions, and a chance to submit your own question.

There is a copy of the new edition of the MLA Handbook in the Reference Room, Call # LB2369 .G53 2016

Excerpts from a paper that quotes from multiple locations in CT, using the Riverside

Physically, there is little mention, except to say that he was "a large man ...with eyen stepe" (I.753) and also that "of manhood him lakkede right naught" (I.756). As to his character, Chaucer tells us that he was "Bold of his speche, and wys, and wel y-taught" (I.755) and "Eek therto he was right a mery man" (I.757). Later on, in the Pardoner's Introduction, the pilgrims all voice their preference for "'som moral thing, that we may leere / Som wit, and thanne wol we gladly heere'" (VI.325-26) after the Host tells him "'Thou bel amy, thou Pardoner. . .Tel us som mirthe or hapes right anon'" (VI.318-19). In the Wife of Bath's Prologue, he stops a quarrel between the Summoner and the Friar by saying: "'Pees! And that anon!/ And seyde, 'Lat the womman telle hire tale'." (III.850-851).

If working from Norton, remember to use the tale or prologue to identify where you are in the work: (GP 753), (PardP 325-26), etc.