

THE THESIS

→ A thesis-driven (argumentative) paper makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided (Purdue OWL).

→ Offer a thesis about your topic and then present evidence/facts and analysis (the analysis provides support and explanation that connects your evidence to your thesis). A thesis may not necessarily argue that something is right or wrong ("The death penalty is wrong."), but it must argue a position on a topic ("The death penalty has not been a deterrent to crime in the U.S.").

→ *When a topic is not assigned:* Even if your assignment doesn't ask a specific question, your thesis statement still needs to answer a question about the issue you'd like to explore. In this situation, your job is to figure out what question you'd like to write about.

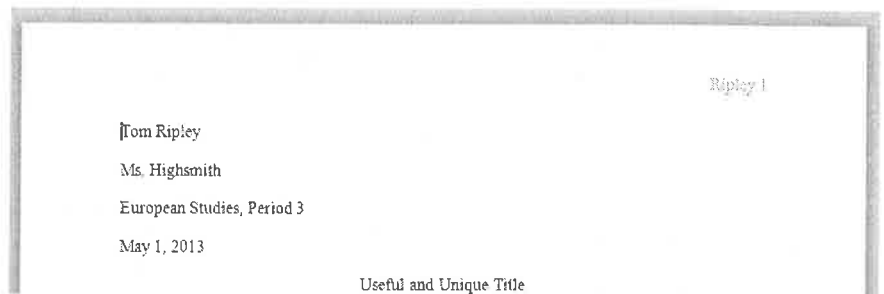
A good thesis statement will usually include the following four attributes: 1) take on a subject upon which reasonable people could disagree, 2) deal with a subject that can be adequately treated given the nature of the assignment (length, timing), 3) express one main idea, 4) assert your conclusions about a subject (Indiana WTS)

MLA FORMATTING

MLA style is used in the humanities for the formatting of research papers, in-text citations, and the Works Cited page.

General Format of Research Papers:

1 → One inch margins, 2 → 12 point font, Times New Roman, 3 → Double-spaced (with no extra spaces), 4 → Left-aligned (except title, the only thing centered), 5 → Heading (your name, teacher's name, class name and period, due date written out – see example below), 6 → Header (upper right corner, your last name and page number)



In-text Citations:

→ In a paper, it is the brief note that is included so the reader knows the fact came from another source and can look at your Works Cited page and find the exact location of the fact.

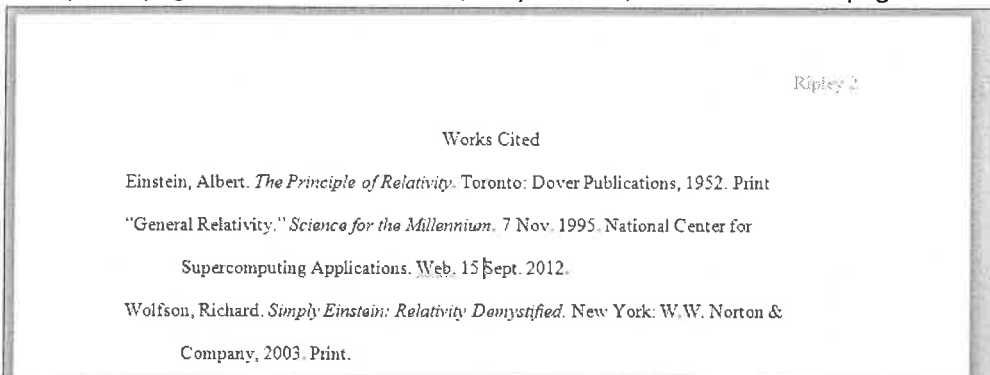
→ The citation contains whatever comes first in the entry on the Works Cited page (the author's last name, an article title with the quotations). The citation goes in parenthesis at the end of the sentence, before the period. If the citation is from a book, it must include the page number as well.

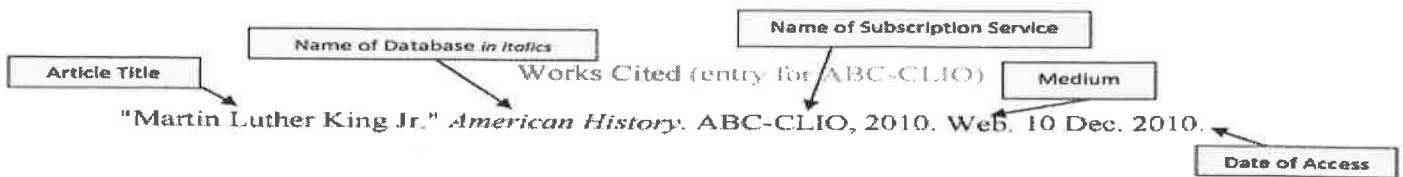
→ Example from a book with one author (Einstein 9). From a website, no author ("General Relativity").

Works Cited Page:

→ The last page of a research paper, it alphabetically lists the full citation information for all sources cited in your paper and no other sources.

→ The information that needs to be included is very specific; guidelines for what to include can be found on the SHS library web page, the Purdue OWL site, EasyBib.com, and others. Your page should look something like this.

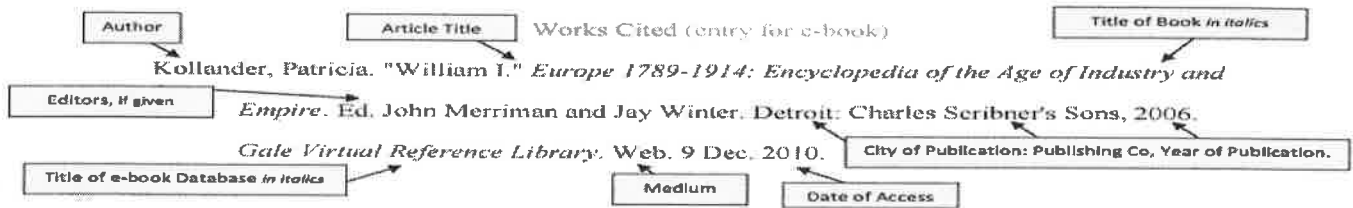




Note: The citation is given after each article via the ABC-CLIO database on Skyline's library page. No changes need to be made to the citation that is provided.

How an in-text citation should look in your paper from the above source:

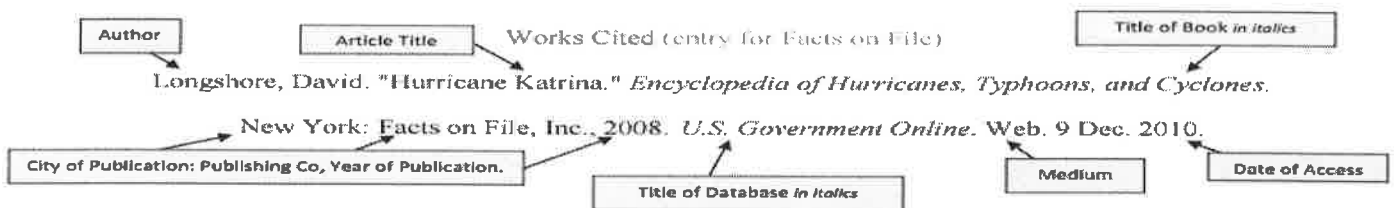
("Martin." or "Martin Luther King Jr.")



Note: The citation is given after each article via the e-books on Skyline's library page though there are THREE things you must change: author's name should not be all caps, remove the volume number and page numbers.

How an in-text citation should look in your paper from the above source:

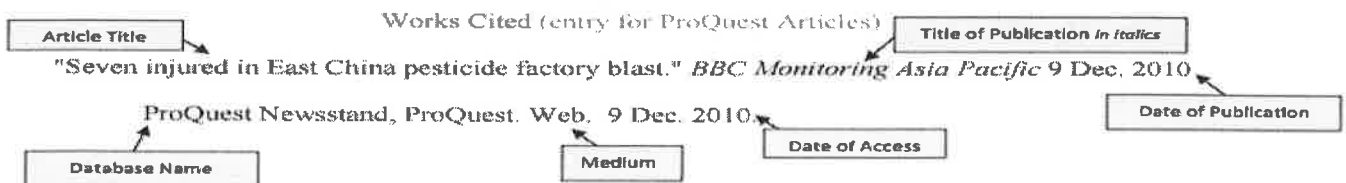
(Kollander 2467)



Note: The citation is given after each article on Facts on File, but the citation does not follow MLA style so please look to the above for guidance.

How an in-text citation should look in your paper from the above source:

(Longshore)



Note: The citation is given after each article via ProQuest access on Skyline's library page - click on the "cite this" icon and then choose MLA under the 'Choose Citation Style' drop-down menu. No changes need to be made to the citation that is generated.

How an in-text citation should look in your paper from the above source:

("Seven injured")

MLA Style Guide for Creating Works Cited Lists

Works Cited General Guidelines:

- References are cited on separate pages at the end of a manuscript, under the title, Works Cited (with no quotation marks, underlining or italicizing), centered at the top of the first page. The Works Cited list should be alphabetized by authors' last names or article/book titles. References are **double-spaced** within and between entries.

Print Resources

Works Cited

- Generally, *italicize* titles of books and journals, or underline – but not both.
- While URLs are no longer required when citing web publications, you should include a URL when an instructor requires it.
- This guide shows the most frequently used citation types. For additional information on MLA style, contact a UW librarian at www.lib.washington.edu/about/contacts.html.
- **Source:** UW Libraries and *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.*

book by a single author

Author (last name first). *Book Title* (in italics). Place of publication (state is needed if not a common city): Publishing company, year of publication. Medium of publication.

example: Castle, Gregory. *Modernism and Celtic Revival*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2001. Print. in-text citation: (Castle 46)

book by two or more authors

Authors (last name first for first author, then first name first) *Book Title* (in italics). Place of publication: Publishing co., year of publication. Medium of publication.

example: Llywelyn, Morgan and Michael Scott. *Ireland: Graphic History*. Rockport, MA: Element, 1995. Print. in-text citation: (Llywelyn and Scott 102)

Note: Give the names in the same order as on the title page, not necessarily in alphabetical order. For more than three authors, you may name the first author and add "et al." or give all names in full.

article in a reference work

Author (last name first). "Article Title." (in quotes) *Book Title* (in italics). Editor (if given). Place of publication: Publishing co., year of publication. Medium of publication.

example: Le Patourel, John. "Normans and Normandy." *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. Ed. Joseph R. Staver. New York: Scribner's, 1987. Print. in-text citation: (Le Patourel 4)

anonymous article or book

"Article Title." (in quotes) *Book Title* (in italics). Editor (if given). Place of publication: Publishing co., year of publication. Medium of publication.

example: "Charlottesville." *Encyclopedia of Virginia*. New York: Somerset Press, 1993. Print. in-text citation: ("Charlottesville" 23)

Note: When a work is anonymous, alphabetize the entry by title (ignoring any initial A, An, or The).

Other Resources

interview

example: Wiesel, Elie. Interview by Ted Koppel *Nightline*. ABC. WABC, New York. 18 Apr. 2002. Television. in-text citation: (Wiesel)

personal interview

example: Barron, Tyler. Telephone interview. 7 Dec. 2011. in-text citation: (Barron)

movie

example: Schindler's List. Dir. Steven Spielberg. Perf. Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, and Ralph Finnes. Universal Pictures, 2004. DVD.

movie (citing the contribution of a particular individual)

example: Spielberg, Steven, dir. Schindler's List. Perf. Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, and Ralph Finnes. Universal Pictures, 2004. DVD.
in-text citation: (*Schindler's List*)
in-text citation: (Spielberg)

Electronic Resources

Works Cited

website (no author)

"Article title." (in quotes) *Name of Website (in italics)*. Publishing Co., publishing date (if no publisher is given, write N.p., if no date is given, write n.d.). Medium of publication. Date of access.

example: "Royal Shakespeare Company." Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2009. Web. 1 Feb 2011.
in-text citation: ("Royal")

article from library database
(*see library web site for additional database citations*)

example: Griffin, Patrick. "Napoleon I." *World History: The Modern Era.* ABC-CLIO, n.d. Web. 7 Dec. 2011.
in-text citation: (Griffin)

e-book

Author/s. "Article Title." (if included) *Title of Book.* Place of publication: Publishing Co., date of publishing. *Source of eBook (in italics also).* Medium of publication. Date of access.

example: Kollander, Patricia. "William I." *Europe 1789-1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of Industry and Empire.* Ed. John Meriman and Jay Winter. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006. *Gale Virtual Reference Library.* Web. 7 Dec. 2011.
in-text citation: (Kollander 2468)

Note: A citation is given at the end of each Gale e-book entry, you must take out the page numbers, they don't belong

pictures/images

Photographer/artist's name (if given, last name first). *Title of picture (in italics)* or name of subject (NOT italics). Date of piece (if given). Medium of art. Collection which owns the image (if given) or name of hosting website. Medium of publication. Date accessed.

example: Rousseau, Henri. *The Ship in the Storm.* 1896. Painting. Musee de l'Orangerie, Paris. Web. 8 Aug 2011.
in-text citation: ("Rousseau")

Note: For all images and pictures, go to the original web page and cite the web page, do NOT cite something like Google Images and the like.

Note for Works Cited from the Web: An entry for a nonperiodical publication on the Web usually contains most of the following components, in sequence: 1)

Name of the author, director, narrator, or translator of the work. 2) Title of the work (italicized if the work is independent; in roman type and quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work. 3) Title of the overall Web site (italicized), if distinct from item 2. 4) Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use *N.p.* 5) Date of publication (day, month, and year, as available); if nothing is available, use *n.d.* 6) Medium of publication (*Web*). 7) Date of access (day, month, and year). Each item is followed by a period except the publisher or sponsor, which is followed by a comma.

John Jones (your name)

Ms. Smith (teacher's name)

European Studies, Period 3/4 (class name and period)

December 1, 2014 (due date, fully written out)

Breaking Ground (title is centered and thoughtful)

Einstein's Relativity successfully dealt with the limitations of Newtonian physics, and in doing so completely redesigned humanity's view of the universe. The main problem with Newton-era physics was that it could not fully explain light (Wolfson 55). Einstein realized that light did not need a medium to travel through, and instead traveled at the same speed no matter the reference point (Wolfson 87). This simple idea led to unexpected consequences: because the speed of light was constant no matter the speed of its source, it meant time and distance, the two other variables involved in calculating speed, had to be relative, and therefore different, to each observer (Wolfson 87). This was the Special Theory of Relativity, the first of the two theories Einstein published on the subject. He later expanded this idea to mean that all phenomena are in fact different from every point of view, and from that idea deduced that Newton's gravitational effect was actually caused by the warping of space by matter ("General"). This was his General Theory of Relativity, published in 1916 (Einstein, *Principle* 23). In Einstein's own words, "According to the general theory of relativity, the geometrical properties of space are not independent, but they are determined by matter" (Einstein, *Relativity* 113). These ideas all completely contradicted Newton's ideas of a strict force that controlled all movement, and were therefore revolutionary in their own right.

Notice: you are citing direct quotes, paraphrased information, and ideas taken from your sources

Works Cited (title needs to be this: Works Cited and centered)

Einstein, Albert. *The Principle of Relativity*. Toronto: Dover Publications, 1952. Print

Einstein, Albert. *Relativity*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1995. Print.

“General Relativity.” *Science for the Millennium*. 7 Nov. 1995. National Center for Supercomputing Applications. Web. 15 Sept. 2014.

Wolfson, Richard. *Simply Einstein: Relativity Demystified*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2003. Print.

Notice how these two sources by the same author are cited in-text above

If there are quotes here, keep the quotes in the in-text citation

The Works Cited page is double-spaced, there are no numbers or bullets and the entries are listed alphabetically