MLA Documentation System

The MLA documentation system consists of two components:

1. **Parenthetical Citations:** At the end of each passage in the text that requires documentation, insert the last name of the author and the page number(s) in parentheses.
   - The citation follows the last word of the passage (or the closing quotation marks) and comes before the final punctuation:
     - . . . regarding the problem (Jones 234).
     - . . . will continue to be a problem” (Jones 235).
   - If the name of the author is introduced in the text of the paper, it is deleted from the citation to avoid unnecessary repetition:
     - Jones has a similar view of the problem; he believes the new law would be an appropriate solution (223).
   - If the author of the source is unknown, the citation consists of the title (abbreviated if necessary) and the page number:
     - …as previously thought (“Surprising Solution,” 8).

2. **Works Cited Page:** At the end of the paper a complete bibliographical entry is provided for each source. These entries are arranged alphabetically on a separate page under the heading **Works Cited.** This page should be double-spaced throughout and use reverse indentation (see examples below taken from *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* and *The Writer’s Harbrace Handbook*).

Examples of Works Cited page entries:

**Book by one author:**

**Book by two authors (only the first name is reversed):**

**Essay originally published in an anthology:**


**Essay from an edited collection reprinted in a textbook or anthology:**
Article in a magazine:

Article in a journal:

Article in a newspaper:


Personal interview:
McConnell, Judith. Personal interview. 7 June 2007.

Web sites:
Information required for Web sites:
1 Name of author, editor, compiler, director, or translator
2 Title of the section (if only one part of a Web site is used) and/or the Web site (if the entire site is used)
3 Version or edition (if available)
4 Publisher or sponsor of the site (if not available, use N.p.)
5 Date of publication (if not available, use n.d.)
6 Medium of publication (Web)
7 Date of access

Web site with complete information:

Web site with incomplete information:

One section of a Web site:


Article on a Web site (no date):

Magazine article from LexisNexis:


Journal article from ProQuest: