How to Cite Journal Articles in MLA Citation Style

You probably know that citing sources used in your research paper is required in order to avoid charges of plagiarism.

Proper citations also allow your instructor to track the ideas you present to their original source.

But do you know how to cite?

In this video you will learn the basics of correct formatting of journal article citations retrieved from online sources in MLA style.

I'll use the article, Humor into Film: Self Reflections in Adaptations of Black Comic Novels, found in Humanities Full Text database, as my example.

In MLA style, parenthetical citations are used within your paper to show you've used ideas from an external source.

The parenthetical citation includes the author's last name and the page number for the information you're referencing.

For our example, I'll write Pogel, and Chamberlain 190 in brackets.

The parenthetical citations are short and direct readers to the full bibliographic citations listed in the Works Cited, located at the end of your paper.

As you can see, the Works Cited list is alphabetized, and the second line and any subsequent lines in each citation are indented.

In MLA style, full citations start with the author's name, last name first, followed by a comma, then their first name (or first initial) followed by a period.

Give the author's name as it appears in the article.

If there are multiple authors, the subsequent author's names are recorded in first name last name order, without punctuation.

Since our example has two authors, separate the names by a comma followed by and.

Follow the authors' names with a period.

The article title is enclosed in quotation marks and all principle words are capitalized. The final period is placed before the closing quotation mark.

The journal title is italicized, and is followed by the journal volume and issue numbers, which are separated by a period.

The year of publication is written in brackets and is followed by a colon after the final bracket. Only give the year, not the days and months of publication.

Write the year of publication followed by the page range for the article you're citing, followed by a period.

Conclude the entry with the title of the database in italics, followed by the medium of publication, and date of access. Separate all these statements with periods.

For this article, I'll write: ***Humanities Full Text*. Web. 16 Jul. 2013.**

When creating your citations, be sure to pay close attention to the punctuation and style used to format each citation.

For more information on how to cite journal articles, or other resources, start from the library homepage at lib.uwaterloo.ca and click on the *Online Reference Shelf* link, in the right-hand menu.

Now click on the *Citation/Style Guides* link to find a list of resources to help you with MLA citations.

If you need more help with this process, just ask a librarian. We're happy to help!