

## USING MLA TO CITE ARTICLES FROM MAGAZINES, JOURNALS AND NEWSPAPERS (VERSION 7)

\*Note: The examples below are guidelines and address only the most common types of citations. For complete information and specific questions please refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 7th Edition*.

**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAGAZINES AND SCHOLARLY JOURNALS:** The way a periodical article is cited depends upon whether the source is a scholarly journal or a general-interest magazine:

### Scholarly journals:

- Are typically published quarterly, and contain lengthy articles.
- Have articles that always include footnotes or bibliographies.
- Have articles written by experts or researchers in a certain field; articles are often **peer-reviewed** or **refereed** by other experts in the field before they are published.
- Are usually published by professional organizations or universities, and have a sober, serious look.
- Are written specifically for professionals, scholars, and students in a particular field.
- *The Journal of Modern Literature*, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, and *American Economic Review* are examples of scholarly journals.

### Magazines:

- Are written for the general public to read.
- Often have many **advertisements and photographs** on glossy, colorful pages.
- Contain articles that rarely have bibliographies or footnotes.
- Are published more frequently than scholarly journals.
- Have shorter, more simply written articles that are meant to inform on a general level or to entertain.
- *Time*, *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, and *Psychology Today* are examples of magazines.

**ARTICLE IN A MAGAZINE:** Once you have determined that your source is a magazine article, begin by citing the article's author, last name first, followed by the article title, in quotation marks. If there is no author given, start the citation with the title of the article. The title of the magazine comes next, italicized. **If the magazine is published every week or two weeks**, give the complete date beginning with the day (abbreviate all months except for May, June and July), followed by a colon and the page numbers of the article and medium. **If the magazine is published monthly or bimonthly**, simply list the month(s) and year, followed by a colon and the page numbers of the article and medium. If the article isn't printed on consecutive pages, give only the first page number immediately followed by a plus sign. **Do not give volume and issues numbers for magazines.** Below are three examples:

Fortner, Stephen. "Being Mike Garson." *Keyboard* Jan. 2004: 28-32. Print.

Fineman, Howard, and T. Trent Gegax. "My Mommies Can Marry." *Newsweek* 1 Dec. 2003: 34+. Print.

"A Rhyme in Time." *Christian Science Monitor* 14 Mar. 1995: 17. Print.

**ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL:** If you have determined that your article is from a scholarly journal, begin by citing the article's author, last name first. The article title, in quotation marks, comes next, followed by the title of the journal, italicized. What comes next depends upon how the journal pages its issues.

**If the article is from a scholarly journal that has continuous pagination** (it doesn't page each issue separately, but instead pages the whole year as if it were one publication): follow the journal title with the volume number, and the year of publication, in parenthesis. End the citation with a colon, followed by the page numbers, medium and a period. Below is an example:

Goldstein, Ken, and Paul Freedman. "Campaign Advertising and Voter Turnout: New Evidence for a Stimulation Effect."

*Journal of Politics* 64 (2002): 721-40. Print.

**If the article is from a scholarly journal that pages each issue separately:** follow the journal title with the volume number, a period, then the issue number (no spaces in between the period and the numbers). Follow this with the year of publication, in parenthesis, a colon, and the page numbers of the article and medium. End your citation with a period. Below is an example:

Smeltzer, Larry R. "An Analysis of Receivers' Reactions to Electronically Mediated Communication." *Journal of Business Communication* 23.4 (1986): 37-55. Print.

**ARTICLE IN A NEWSPAPER:** Citations for newspaper articles are done the same way as those for magazine and journal articles: author's name, last name first, followed by the title of the article, in quotation marks. **Sometimes newspaper articles are written by newspaper staff and do not give a specific author's name in the byline.** If this is the case, simply leave out the author and begin your citation with the title of the article. This is followed with the name of the newspaper, italicized. Leave words such as "the" off of the newspaper name. Next give the complete date of the article, beginning with the day, followed by the month and year (abbreviate all months except for May, June and July). **Do not give volume and issues numbers for a newspaper**, even if they are listed. Follow this with a colon and the page numbers and medium, ending the citation with a period.

**If a specific edition is named on the masthead of the newspaper**, insert this after the date in your citation (late ed., for example). This is important to remember because different editions of the same newspaper may contain different articles.

Finally, if the article skips between pages, give only the first page number, followed by a plus sign. For example: C2+.

Below are sample newspaper citations:

Schlesinger, Jacob M. "Dean Shifts Tack and Takes Aim at Kerry's Record." *Wall Street Journal* 30 Jan. 2004, Eastern ed.: A4. Print.

Shanklin, Mary. "Charter School May Face Closure." *Orlando Sentinel* 14 Jan. 2004: B4+. Print.

**ARTICLE FROM A MAGAZINE, SCHOLARLY JOURNAL, OR NEWSPAPER FOUND IN A LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION DATABASE:** How you begin a citation for an article found in an electronic database that the library subscribes to depends upon where that article was originally published. If the article was originally published in a magazine, for example, follow the citation instructions for articles found in magazines. Do the same for scholarly journal and newspaper articles.

At the end of the citation, add the name of the database where you found the article, italicized, then the medium (Web). Finally, list the date you accessed the article (day, month, year). Note that all months are abbreviated except for May, June, and July.

Here is an example:

West, Genevieve. "The Aesthetics of Toni Morrison: Speaking the Unspeakable." *Studies in the Novel* 35 (2003): 272-76. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 5 Feb. 2004.