

Evaluating web sites:  
Ask yourself:

Where is the information coming from?

Who is the author of the site? Does he/she give sources?

What is the URL? What does it tell you about where the information comes from?

What is the tone of the site? Does it have any obvious bias?

Cross-check information – compare with other sites, preferably ones you already trust.  
Also compare new information with what you already know.

Citing websites:

## **Basic Forms for Electronic Sources**

*The MLA Style Manual* provides extensive examples of electronic source citations in chapter six; *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* provides extensive examples covering a wide variety of potential sources in chapter six. If your particular case is not covered here, use the basic forms to determine the correct format, consult the *MLA Handbook*, visit the links in our [additional resources](#) section, talk to your instructor, or call the Writing Lab (765-494-3723) for help.

**If no author is given for a web page or electronic source, start with and alphabetize by the title of the piece and use a shortened version of the title for parenthetical citations.**

### **A web site**

Author(s). Name of Page. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of Access <electronic address>.

It is necessary to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available at one date may no longer be available later. Be sure to include the complete address for the site. Also, note the use of angled brackets around the electronic address; MLA requires them for clarity.

## Web site examples

Felluga, Dino. Undergraduate Guide to Literary Theory. 17 Dec. 1999. Purdue University. 15 Nov. 2000  
<<http://omni.cc.purdue.edu/~Efelluga/theory2.html>>.  
Purdue Online Writing Lab. 2003. Purdue University. 10 Feb. 2003 <<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>>.

## An article on a web site

It is necessary to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available at one date may no longer be available later. Be sure to include the complete address for the site. Also, note the use of angled brackets around the electronic address; MLA requires them for clarity.

Author(s). "Article Title." Name of web site. Date of posting/revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with site. Date of access <electronic address>.

## Article on a web site

Poland, Dave. "The Hot Button." Roughcut. 26 Oct. 1998.  
Turner Network Television. 28 Oct. 1998  
<<http://www.roughcut.com>>.

"Using Modern Language Association (MLA) Format." Purdue Online Writing Lab. 2003. Purdue University. 6 Feb. 2003  
<[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_mla.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html)>.

## An article in an online journal or magazine

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume.

Issue (Year): Pages/Paragraphs. Date of Access

<electronic address>.

Some electronic journals and magazines provide paragraph or page numbers; include them if available. This format is also appropriate to online magazines; as with a print version, you should provide a complete publication date rather than volume and issue number.

### **Online journal article**

Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." Emerging Infectious Diseases 6.6 (2000): 33 pars. 5 Dec. 2000  
<<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol6no6/wheelis.htm>>.

### **An Online Image or Series of Images**

Artist if available. "Description or title of image." Date of image. Online image. Title of larger site. Date of download. <electronic address>.

Smith, Greg. "Rhesus Monkeys in the Zoo." No date. Online image. Monkey Picture Gallery. 3 May 2003.  
<<http://monkeys.online.org/rhesus.jpg>>.

### **E-mail (or other personal communications)**

Author. "Title of the message (if any)" E-mail to person's name. Date of the message.

This same format may be used for personal interviews or personal letters. These do not have titles, and the description should be

appropriate. Instead of "Email to John Smith," you would have "Personal interview."

### **E-mail to you**

Kunka, Andrew. "Re: Modernist Literature." E-mail to the author. 15 Nov. 2000.

### **Email communication between two parties, not including the author**

Neyhart, David. "Re: Online Tutoring." E-mail to Joe Barbato. 1 Dec. 2000.

### **A listserv posting**

Author. "Title of Posting." Online posting. Date when material was posted (for example: 18 Mar. 1998). Name of listserv. Date of access <electronic address for retrieval>.

### **Online Posting**

Karper, Erin. "Welcome!" Online posting. 23 Oct. 2000.  
Professional Writing Bulletin Board. 12 Nov. 2000  
<<http://linnell.english.purdue.edu/ubb/Forum2/HTML/000001.html>>.

### **An article or publication retrieved from an electronic database**

If you're citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database that your library subscribes to, you should provide enough information so that the reader can locate the article either in its original print form or retrieve it from the online database (if they have access).

Provide the following information in your citation:

- Author's name (if not available, use the article title as the first part of the citation)
- Article Title
- Publication Name
- Publication Date
- Page Number/Range
- Database Name
- Service Name
- Name of the library where service was accessed
- Name of the town/city where service was accessed
- Date of Access
- URL of the service (but not the whole URL for the article, since those are very long and won't be able to be re-used by someone trying to retrieve the information)

The generic citation form would look like this:

Author. "Title of Article." Publication Name Volume Number  
 (if necessary) Publication Date: page number-page  
 number. Database name. Service name. Library Name, City,  
 State. Date of access <electronic address of the  
 database>.

Here's an example:

Smith, Martin. "World Domination for Dummies." Journal of  
 Despotry Feb. 2000: 66-72. Expanded Academic ASAP. Gale  
 Group Databases. Purdue University Libraries, West  
 Lafayette, IN. 19 February 2003  
 <<http://www.infotrac.galegroup.com>>.

**Article in a reference database on CD-ROM**

"World War II." Encarta. CD-ROM. Seattle: Microsoft, 1999.

**Article from a periodically published database on CD-ROM**

Reed, William. "Whites and the Entertainment Industry."

Tennessee Tribune 25 Dec. 1996: 28. Ethnic NewsWatch.

CD-ROM. Data Technologies. Feb. 1997.

For more about citing electronic sources, check out MLA Documentation: Citing Electronic Sources (from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center), Using MLA Style to Cite and Document Internet Sources (from Bedford St. Martin's *Online!*), MLA Style: Electronic Formats (from Dr. Mary Ellen Guffey), and Citing Electronic Sources-- MLA (from Middlebury College). The Gale Group also has a page about how to cite publications retrieved from their databases in MLA format that includes examples of different kinds of publications.