



Library Guide to MLA Government Citation Examples

<http://www.lonestar.edu/library/>

Updated 15 October 2009, Based on MLA Handbook, 7th ed.

General Guidelines

- Follow general MLA citation rules where permissible.
- If you do not know the writer of the document, cite as author the government agency that issued the document, i.e. cite the name of the government first, followed by the name of the agency, using an abbreviation if the context makes it clear. (MLA Handbook 175)
- In citing two or more works by the same government, substitute three hyphens (---) for the name of each entry after the first. If you also cite more than one work by the same government agency, use an additional three hyphens (---) in place of the agency in the second entry and each subsequent one. (175)
- In citing congressional documents, include such information as the number and session of Congress, the house (*S* stands for Senate, *H* and *HR* for House of Representatives) (175)
- Most federal publications, regardless of the branch of government issuing them, are published by the Government Printing Office (GPO), in Washington, DC. (175)
- If known, the name of the document's author may either begin the entry or, if the agency comes first, follow the title and the work *By* or an abbreviation (such as *Ed.* or *Comp.*). (176)
- When citing legal references, check *The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation* located at the reference desk. It is proper to use abbreviations in this context. (205)
- If you are citing a well known historical document such as the Declaration of Independence (U.S. 1776) or the Constitution of the United States (U.S. Const.), no entry is needed in the works-cited if parenthetical reference is made. Be sure to abbreviate where applicable. (206, Blue Book , 37 & 75)
- To cite an online government publication, begin with the same facts given for printed government works and conclude with information appropriate to the electronic source. (188)
- All guidelines apply not only to federal sources but to state, local and international sources, as well.

PRINTED SOURCES

U.S. Congressional Hearing

¹ United States. Cong. House. Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments of the Committee on the Judiciary. ² *Hearings*
³ *on the "Equal Rights" Amendment.* ⁴ 91st Cong., ⁵ 2nd sess. ⁶ S. Res. 61. ⁷ Washington: GPO, 1970. Print.

KEY:

¹ government Cong. branch committee name ² title ³ number and session of Cong. ⁴ type and number of publication
⁵ place of publication: publisher ⁶ year of publication ⁷ format

Congressional Record

Cong. Rec. 7 Feb. 1973: 3831-51. Print.

Agency publication where author is known

¹ McCarl, Robert. ² *The District of Columbia Fire Fighters' Project : A Case Study in Occupational Folklife.* ³ Washington:
⁴ Smithsonian Institution P, ⁵ 1985. Print.

KEY:

¹ author ² title ³ place of publication: publisher ⁴ year of publication ⁵ format

Agency publication where author is not known

United States. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service. Office of the Surgeon General. *The Health
 Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke : A Report of the Surgeon General.* Rockville, MD: GPO,
 2006. Print.

Public Law using *The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation*

Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, Pub. L. No. 108-173, 117 Stat 2066. 2003 . Print.

Statistical Table

¹ “Table 96 – Public High School Graduates, by State: 1969-70 to 1990-91.” ² *Digest of Education Statistics, 1991*.
³ Washington: GPO, 1991. ⁴ ⁵ Print.

KEY:

¹ table title ² sponsor of table ³ place of publication: publisher ⁴ year of publication ⁵ format

Court Decision using *The Blue Book: A Uniform System of Citation*

Brown v. the Board of Education. 347 US 483 (1954). Print.

ONLINE SOURCES

Note about dates: In addition to any online date given, the access date is part of the citation. If there is no online date, use only access date.

Agency publication where author is known

Borrie, William T., and James A. Harding. *Effective Recreation Visitor Communication Strategies: Rock Climbers in the Bitterroot Valley, Montana*. US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, September 2002. Web. 15 October 2009.

Agency publication where author is not known

¹ United States. National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Drug Abuse. Office of Science Education. ² *The Brain: Understanding Neurobiology through the Study of Addiction*, 2000. ³ Web. 19 July 2006. ⁴ ⁵ ⁶

KEY:

¹ government and name of agency ² sub agency and office ³ title ⁴ publication date volume (year) ⁵ format ⁶ date accessed

Map

¹ “Phoenix, Arizona.” ² Map. ³ *U.S. Gazetteer*. ⁴ US Census Bureau, 24 Sept. 2002. ⁵ Web. ⁶ 2 September 2008. ⁷

KEY:

¹ title ² form of document ³ publication location ⁴ agency ⁵ date accessed ⁶ format ⁷ date accessed

Statistical Table

¹ “Summary of Number of Returns Filed: by Type of Return, Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004.” ² Table. ³ *Internal Revenue Service Data Book 2004*. ⁴ US Internal Revenue Service, 12 Nov. 2007. ⁵ Web. ⁶ April 23, 2007. ⁷

KEY:

¹ title ² form of document if not listed in title ³ publication location ⁴ agency sponsor of table ⁵ format ⁶ date accessed