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## MLA: Cite Like the Devil

ANTONIO: Mark you this, Bassanio,  
The devil can cite. . . .

(Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*).

### Darkness Visible: Citation as a Black Art

Even if the Modern Language Association is not a satanic cult, MLA citation can seem devilishly tricky. But keep in mind that citation serves angelic ends: acknowledgement of the sources which have informed your work and sufficient information to find them.

A citation style attempts to say “My name is legion” in a single voice: personal letters and legal cases, journal articles and online books, television broadcasts and music downloads—all must adhere to a uniform code. You may be forgiven if you find the rules infernally fussy, but remember that Hell too is a bulwark against chaos.

### Devil in the Details

For complete citation guidelines see the 2009 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook*.

### Confession of a Justified Sinner:

I have single-spaced this guide for compactness. Remember the MLA requires

**Works Cited lists to be entirely double-spaced.**

## Scholarly Articles: in Print, from a Database, on the Web

Below are citations for two scholarly articles, each accessed (1) in print, (2) from an IC database, and (3) from the online edition of the journal.

### 1. Print:

**Partner, Jane. “Satanic Vision and Acrostics in *Paradise Lost*.” *Essays in Criticism* 57.2 (2007): 129-146. Print.**

### 2. Database:

**Partner, Jane. “Satanic Vision and Acrostics in *Paradise Lost*.” *Essays in Criticism* 57.2 (2007): 129-146. *Project Muse*. Web. 5 Jan. 2009.**

### 3. Journal's Online Edition

Partner, Jane. "Satanic Vision and Acrostics in *Paradise Lost*." *Essays in Criticism* 57.2 (2007): 129-146. Web. 5 Jan. 2009.

with optional URL:

Partner, Jane. "Satanic Vision and Acrostics in *Paradise Lost*." *Essays in Criticism* 57.2 (2007): 129-146. Web. 5 Jan. 2009. <<http://eic.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/57/2/129>>.

### 1. Print:

Dulles, Avery Cardinal. "The Population of Hell." *First Things: A Journal of Religion and Public Life* 36.6 (2003): 36-41. Print.

### 2. Database:

Dulles, Avery Cardinal. "The Population of Hell." *First Things: A Journal of Religion and Public Life* 36.6 (2003): 36-41. *General OneFile*. Web. 5 Jan. 2009.

### 3. Journal's Online Edition

Dulles, Avery Cardinal. "The Population of Hell." *First Things: A Journal of Religion and Public Life* 36.6 (2003): 36-41. Web. 5 Jan. 2009.

with optional URL:

Dulles, Avery Cardinal. "The Population of Hell." *First Things: A Journal of Religion and Public Life* 36.6 (2003): 36-41. Web. 5 Jan. 2009. <[http://www.firstthings.com/article.php3?id\\_article=488](http://www.firstthings.com/article.php3?id_article=488)>.

- **Essential information for citing a scholarly article from a print source** includes the name(s) of the author(s), the title of the article (in quotations marks), the name of the journal (in italics), the volume and issue numbers (written as a decimal number), the year (in parentheses, followed by a colon), and the inclusive page numbers of the article. If the page numbers are missing from a database or Web site, put—n. pag.
- Note: the MLA now requires volume and issue numbers for all scholarly articles.
- **If your access is from a subscription database**, follow the print publication information with the name of the database (reproduce capitalization and spacing exactly), the medium—Web—and the date of access (abbreviate all months except May, June, and July).
- **If you are citing the Web edition of a scholarly journal**, there will be no database or site name beyond the name of the journal itself. (Note: most online journals require a subscription or per article fee for access to full text, but your library may have an electronic subscription or it may be a free, "open access" online journal.)
- Occasionally you may find scholarly articles reprinted at free Web sites—in which case give as much of the print information as is available, followed by the name of the Web site—in italics—followed by the medium—Web—and the date of your access.)
- The MLA no longer recommends including a URL (internet address) for articles from Web resources. But the inclusion of a URL in a Web citation does remain optional, so

consult your instructor for his or her preference. **And note:** if a URL is included and spans two lines of your citation, divide it **only** after a backslash—even if that results in blank space at the end of the first line.

## Magazine Articles (weekly): in Print, from a Database, on the Web

### Print:

**Phillips, Matthew, and Lisa Miller.** “Visions of Hell: Two Yale Grads and a Colorado Pastor Team up to Present a Demonic Version of a Haunted House.” *Newsweek* 6 Nov. 2006: 52. Print.

### Database:

**Phillips, Matthew, and Lisa Miller.** “Visions of Hell: Two Yale Grads and a Colorado Pastor Team up to Present a Demonic Version of a Haunted House.” *Newsweek* 6 Nov. 2006: 52. *ProQuest*. Web. 6 Jan. 2009.

### Magazine’s Online Edition:

**Phillips, Matthew, and Lisa Miller.** “Visions of Hell: Two Yale Grads and a Colorado Pastor Team up to Present a Demonic Version of a Haunted House.” *Newsweek*. *Newsweek*, 6 Nov. 2006. Web. 6 Jan. 2009.

with optional URL:

**Phillips, Matthew, and Lisa Miller.** “Visions of Hell: Two Yale Grads and a Colorado Pastor Team up to Present a Demonic Version of a Haunted House.” *Newsweek*. *Newsweek*, 6 Nov. 2006. Web. 6 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.newsweek.com/id/44379>>.

- **Essential information for citing a print magazine** article includes the name(s) of the author(s), the title of the article (in quotations marks), the name of the journal (in italics), the day, month, and year (abbreviate months except May, June, July), and the page number or inclusive page numbers of the article.
- **If your access is from a database**, follow the print publication information—usually supplied in full by a database—with the name of the database (in italics), the medium—Web—and finally the date of access. If the print page numbers are missing from a database, put—n. pag.
- **If you are citing the online edition of a magazine**, follow the name of the article with the magazine’s online name and follow that with the name of the publisher—it may be the same as the name of the journal (see above)—the date of publication, the medium, and the date of access.
- **Note:** in the example above the name of the publication—*Newsweek*—is italicized and the name of the publisher—Newsweek—is not.
- **Also note:** page numbers are often not available for articles from an online magazine, so they are not required, nor is their absence noted, as with an article from a database.
- The MLA no longer recommends including a URL (internet address) for articles from Web resources. But the inclusion of a URL in a Web citation does remain optional, so consult your instructor for his or her preference. **And note:** If a URL is included and

spans two lines of your citation, divide it **only** after a backslash—even if that results in blank space at the end of the first line.

## **Magazine Articles (monthly): in Print, from a Database, on the Web**

### **Print:**

**Lewis, Bernard.** “‘I’m Right, You’re Wrong, Go to Hell’: Religions and the Meeting of Civilizations.” *The Atlantic Monthly* May 2003: 36-42. **Print.**

### **Database:**

**Lewis, Bernard.** “‘I’m Right, You’re Wrong, Go to Hell’: Religions and the Meeting of Civilizations.” *The Atlantic Monthly* May 2003: 36-42. *Academic Search Premier*. **Web.** 6 Jan. 2009.

### **Magazine’s Online Edition:**

**Lewis, Bernard.** “‘I’m Right, You’re Wrong, Go to Hell’: Religions and the Meeting of Civilizations.” *The Atlantic.com*. The Atlantic Monthly Group, May 2003. **Web.** 6 Jan. 2009.

**with optional URL:**

**Lewis, Bernard.** “‘I’m Right, You’re Wrong, Go to Hell’: Religions and the Meeting of Civilizations.” *The Atlantic.com*. The Atlantic Monthly Group, May 2003. **Web.** 6 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200305/lewis>>.

### **Web Repost by Individual or Organization:**

**Lewis, Bernard.** “‘I’m Right, You’re Wrong, Go to Hell’: Religions and the Meeting of Civilizations.” *The Atlantic Monthly* May 2003. *Crusade Watch*. 5 July 2005. **Web.** 6 Jan. 2009.

**with optional URL:**

**Lewis, Bernard.** “‘I’m Right, You’re Wrong, Go to Hell’: Religions and the Meeting of Civilizations.” *The Atlantic Monthly* May 2003. *Crusade Watch*. 5 July 2005. **Web.** 6 Jan. 2009. <[http://www.crusadewatch.org/index2.php?option=com\\_content&do\\_pdf=1&id=38](http://www.crusadewatch.org/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=38)>.

- **See notes under “weekly” magazines.**
- The example above illustrates that the online version of a magazine—*The Atlantic.com*—may have a slightly different name from the print version—*The Atlantic Monthly*. Always double-check.
- In online magazines the name of the publication and the name of the publisher will often be the same—see “weekly” magazines—but note in the above example that sometimes the publisher will have a different name.
- Be cautious about citing magazine articles reposted by outside Web sites and if possible locate the article at the original publisher’s site (this helps guarantee nothing has been altered). Otherwise, include as much information about the original publication as is provided and follow this with the name of the site that has reposted the article and the date of their posting, if available (see “Web Repost” above).

- Note that the rule of dividing a URL **only** after a slash may result in blank space at the end of the first line—as in the final example above.

## Newspaper Articles: in Print, from a Database, on the Web.

### Print:

**Kozinn, Allan.** “Do Something Decent, and Satan gets Mad.” *New York Times* 8 Dec. 2007, late ed.: B14. Print

### Database:

**Kozinn, Allan.** “Do Something Decent, and Satan gets Mad.” *New York Times* 8 Dec. 2007, late ed.: B14. *LexisNexis*. Web. 6 Jan. 2009.

### Newspaper’s Online Edition

**Kozinn, Allan.** “Do Something Decent, and Satan gets Mad.” *New York Times*. New York Times, 8 Dec. 2007. Web. 6 Jan. 2009.

with optional URL:

**Kozinn, Allan.** “Do Something Decent, and Satan gets Mad.” *New York Times*. New York Times, 8 Dec. 2007. Web. 6 Jan. 2009. <[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/08/arts/music/08grif.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/08/arts/music/08grif.html?_r=1)>.

### Web Repost by Individual or Organization:

**Kozinn, Allan.** “Do Something Decent, and Satan gets Mad.” *New York Times* 8 Dec. 2007. *Manhattan School of Music*. Web. 6 Jan. 2009.

with optional URL:

**Kozinn, Allan.** “Do Something Decent, and Satan gets Mad.” *New York Times* 8 Dec. 2007. *Manhattan School of Music*. Web. 6 Jan. 2009. <<http://www.msmnyc.edu/critics/>>.

- Newspaper citation varies from the previous examples of magazine citation only in that newspapers often come in named editions—early ed., late ed.—and page designations usually include section letters—B3, D1. If there is a specified edition, include it immediately after the date and before the page number. If there is no edition the colon and page designation immediately follow the year.
- Citations for online newspaper articles should follow the article title with the name of the online newspaper—in italics—then the publisher’s name—often identical to the newspaper’s name—followed by a comma and the date of publication.
- Note that the online versions of newspapers often omit any edition or page numbers—as do the citations.
- Be cautious about citing newspaper articles reposted by outside Web sites and if possible locate the article at the original publisher’s site (this helps guarantee nothing has been altered). Otherwise, include as much information about the original publication as is provided and follow this with the name of the site that has reposted the article—in italics.
- The MLA no longer recommends including a URL (internet address) for articles from Web resources. But the inclusion of a URL in a Web citation does remain optional, so consult your instructor for his or her preference.

- **Note:** A newspaper article in print or from a database will have page numbers, so be aware that longer articles in newspapers often continue after a jump of pages. Indicate this in a citation by giving the page number on which the article begins followed by a plus sign. For example C8+ indicates the article begins on page 8 of section C but ends after a jump of one or more pages.

## Special Cases: Reviews, Editorials, and Unsigned Articles

### Book Review in a Scholarly Journal:

**Hanaoka, Mimi.** “The Devil in the Details.” Rev. of *God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*, by Christopher Hitchens. *Journal of International Affairs* 61.1 (2007): 263-269. *SocINDEX*. Web. 7 Jan. 2009.

### Movie Review in a Magazine:

**Anderson, John.** “Guillermo’s ‘Golden’ Sequel is Devilish Fun.” Rev. of *Hellboy II: The Golden Army*, dir. Guillermo del Toro. *Variety* 14 July 2008: 35+. *ProQuest*. Web. 7 Jan. 2009.

### Music Review in a Newspaper:

**DeCurtis, Anthony.** “Airborne Again.” Rev. of *Hell Freezes Over*, perf. The Eagles. *Rolling Stone* 15 Dec. 1994: 92. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 7 Jan. 2009.

- Citations for reviews follow the rules that govern citation for the type of publication—journal, magazine or newspaper—and the medium in which it’s accessed—print or Web. The only difference is that after the author/title information, or just the title if the review is unsigned, comes “Rev. of” and the name of the work, followed by the author, director, or performer—as appropriate.
- If the review has no credited author and no title, simply begin with Rev. of . . .

### Editorial in a Magazine (signed):

**Kantzer, Kenneth S.** “Do You Believe in Hell?” Editorial. *Christianity Today* 21 Feb. 1986: 12. Print.

### Editorial in a Newspaper (unsigned):

“Road to Hell Paved . . .” Editorial. *Boston Herald* 2 Oct. 2007: 26. *LexisNexis*. Web. 7 Jan. 2009.

- Citations for editorials follow the rules that govern citation for the type of publication—journal, magazine or newspaper—and the medium in which it’s accessed—print or Web.

The only difference is that after the author/title information, or just the title if the editorial is unsigned, comes the word Editorial (not in italics).

**Unsigned Newspaper article:**

**“Devil Made Them Do It.” *New York Times* 29 Mar. 2003, late ed.: A8. *General OneFile*. Web. 7 Jan. 2009.**

- As usual when there is no author, begin with the title. But when a title is the first element in a citation—and needs to be integrated alphabetically into your Works Cited list—you must omit any initial A, An, or The. The full title of the above article is “The Devil Made Them Do It,” but since it begins the citation the initial “The” is omitted.