***How to Write Anything (or…How to Cite Anything)***

**How to cite from a magazine in MLA**

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How to cite a magazine in MLA style. Say you’re working on an evaluation paper for your health sciences course, and you find a great article in *Scientific American* about the inner-workings of the brain. How do you find all the information you need to cite the article in your paper? First let’s look at the six elements that make up a works cited item in MLA style.

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To cite a magazine article, you’ll need to include the name of the magazine; the date the magazine was published; the name of the author of the article; the title of the article; the pages on which the article appears; and the medium, or whether you looked at the magazine in print or online. Let’s see what you can find out

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just by looking at the cover of the magazine. You can always find the title of the magazine on the cover. The date is usually near the magazine’s title, and may also be located on the magazine’s spine. Magazines are usually weekly, monthly, or quarterly publications. For a weekly publication, include the day,

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followed by the month, and then the year in which it was published. When writing the month in an MLA works cited entry, abbreviate it to the first three letters, unless it is September, in which case abbreviate the month to four letters. The first piece of information in the citation will be the author’s name,

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which you can find on the first page of the article, usually near the article’s title. Write the author’s last name first, followed by their first name and middle initial, if they have one. If there is more than one author, list additional authors in the order they appear on the article. List these subsequent authors first name followed by

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last name. Include the article’s title after the author’s name. Be sure to write the title exactly as it appears in the magazine which may not be the same as what's listed on the cover or contents page. To make sure the title you include in your works cited entry is accurate, turn to the page

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the article begins and copy the article’s title from there. Next, include the page numbers on which the article appears. You can determine this by simply turning from the first to the final pages of the article. In this case the article begins on page 44 and ends

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on page 49. Indicate this by including the first and last pages on which the article appears, separated by a hyphen. Following the page range, include a period. Sometimes magazine articles do not appear on consecutive pages. When page numbers are not consecutive,

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simply include the page on which the article begins, followed by a plus sign. The last piece of information included in an MLA citation of a magazine article is the medium in which the article appears. In this case, since you have a physical copy of the *Scientific American* magazine, write “Print” followed by a period.

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Once you’ve completed the works cited entry, be sure to double-check your punctuation. There should be a period following the author’s name; the article title should be in quotation marks and be followed by a period that appears inside the quotation marks; the magazine’s name should be in italics; the month of publication should be abbreviated;

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there should be a colon following the publication date; and there should be periods after the article’s page range and medium. Also, if your works cited entry is longer than one line, make sure you indent each line except for the very first one. This is called a hanging indent.

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And that’s how you write a works cited entry for an article in a magazine in MLA style.