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

**How to cite a short work from a Web site in MLA style**

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How to cite a short work from a Web site in MLA style. Say you are researching for a paper about near-death experiences, and you read online about how time can feel slower during danger. But because you’re reading online, it’s hard to identify what type of source you have and which elements you need for a citation. What you’ve found is a short work from a Web site. A short work is an

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article, poem, internal Web page, or other brief document that appears online. Notice that this doesn’t include scholarly journal articles read online or found in an online database. The source you found is a brief article on the NPR Web site, so it qualifies as a short work. To cite a short work from a Web site in MLA style, you’ll

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need to gather seven elements: the title of the Web site on which it appears; the title of the article; the author; the date it was published; the Web site’s sponsor; the date you accessed the article; and the medium, which in this case will always be “Web” since the source is online. Start with the title of the Web site. It will usually

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be at the very top of the page. Sometimes it’s a logo or contained in a logo, as it is here. If the title is an abbreviation, that’s what you should use. Scroll down to find the title of the article. It will be near the top of the page. You’ll usually find the author just under the article’s title. Author names are often listed

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in a different font or style. Here, they are given in all capital letters, although you shouldn’t do that in your citation. Always present the author with his or her last name first. If there is more than one author, as here, those subsequent names should be presented with their first name first. Be sure to list authors in the order they appear in the

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source. If there were no author, you would begin the entry with the article’s title. You’ll need to find the date the article was published or last updated. It’s often listed near the author names, as it is here. In other sources, the date might be at the

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end of the article or the bottom of the page. This NPR source was published on August 17, 2010 so this is what you write in your citation, with the day first, followed by an abbreviation of the month, and then the year. If the short work doesn’t list a

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publication or update date, use the site’s copyright date instead. The copyright date is usually at the bottom of the page or on the home page of the site. Sponsors are often named in a site’s “About” section, or in small print at the bottom of a webpage. A sponsor is an organization that provides financial or

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production support for a Web site. “Copyright 2011 NPR” is listed in the bottom left corner, so NPR is the sponsor. If a Web site doesn’t list a sponsor, put N-P. This stands for “No publisher,” which is the same thing as sponsor in an online source.

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Next, indicate the medium by adding “Web” to your citation. Lastly, make note of the date you accessed the source. Sometimes a Web site will include the date on its page. If it doesn’t, check your computer’s calendar. Format the date like before: the day, the abbreviated month, and then the year.

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Once you’ve found all the elements for your citation, double-check your punctuation. There should be a comma after the first author listed and a period after the last author listed.

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The title of the article should be in quotes, with a period inside the quotes. The title of the article should be in italic font and followed by a period. The site sponsor should be followed by a comma. The publication and access dates should be formatted day-month-year, with the month abbreviated to the first three letters and followed by a period, unless the month is

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September, in which case you abbreviate the month to four letters. Those dates, as well as the medium, should each be followed by a period. And that’s how you cite a short work from a Web site in MLA style.