

# info tips for the informed researcher

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## General Encyclopedia Articles in MLA Style<sup>1</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) (link to [Libraries](#))

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General encyclopedia articles are typically *not* cited in higher education research<sup>2</sup>.

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### Works Consulted List Entries<sup>3</sup>

#### Signed Encyclopedia Article (Author identified at end of article)

Maraldo, Pamela J. "Nursing." *World Book Encyclopedia*. 2004. Print.

#### Unsigned Encyclopedia Articles (No author)

"Nursing." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. 2009. Web. 7 July 2009

"Nursing." *The New Encyclopedia Britannica: Micropaedia*. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. 2007. Print.

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- For assistance with details of grammar, spelling, and other writing and speech outlining questions, visit the [SLC Writing Lab](#). Also see [The Bedford Handbook](#).
  - Several guidelines from the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. \(2009\)](#):
    - No underlining; use italics instead (see 3.3, pp. 78-9)
    - When to include URL
      - if, without it, reader could face difficulty finding source
      - if **your instructor requires it**
    - **Flexibility of MLA style:** "improvise" when unanticipated features encountered
    - **"Be consistent..."** with styles when writing all citations
    - **Verification of websites:** chance of "disappearing sites, ... download, ... print, [or email] ..." retrieved references and save for later – just in case (5.6.1, pp. 182-3)
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#### Footnotes

1. Guidelines for creating a general encyclopedia entry are found at MLA 160-61, Rule 5.5.7 and at Hacker, Downs, Fister, and Kennedy 630, Rule 13.
2. Academic standards regarding general encyclopedias, specifically, *Wikipedia*, are discussed in Brock Read's article about Middlebury College's policies.
3. "The title *Works Consulted* indicates that the list is not confined to works cited in the paper. The headings *Selected Bibliography*, *Selected List of Works Consulted*, and *Suggestions for Further Reading* are appropriate for lists that suggest readings." (MLA 130, Rule 5.3.1). See also MLA 133, Rule 5.3.3.

#### Works Cited

Hacker, Diana, Douglas P. Downs, Barbara Fister, and X.J. Kennedy. *The Bedford Handbook*. 7th ed., 2009 MLA Update. Boston: Bedford/st Martins, 2009. Print.

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Modern Lang. Assoc., 2009. Print.

Read, Brock. "Middlebury College History Department Limits Student' Use of Wikipedia." *Chronicle of Higher Education* 53.24 (2007): A39. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 4 Feb. 2010.