MLA Citation Style

Originally created by Jill Simser
Updated by Karen Best 2.2017
What is MLA?

• MLA stands for Modern Language Association

• *MLA Style* refers to standardized rules for formatting a paper (line spacing, margins) and citing ideas, quotations, facts and paraphrases borrowed from other sources.

Who Uses MLA?

• MLA style is commonly used for writing papers and citing sources within the liberal arts and humanities.
What is MLA Style?

- Document format
- In-text citations
- Works Cited
  (a list of all sources used in the paper)
Why Do We Cite and Why is it Important?

- Citation credits the work of others who have made your research possible
- Citation creates a TRAIL for your reader to find information you used in a research project
- Citing reliable sources establishes your credibility and prevents you from plagiarizing
Let’s talk about In-text Citations

MLA format follows the **Author-Page Style** of in-text citation.

**What does Author-Page Style mean?**

The author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your **Works Cited** page.

The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself introduced by a **signal phrase**, or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase.
In-text Citation Examples

**Author is named in a signal phrase**
**Sentence contains a direct quote**

**Wordsworth stated** that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" *(263).*

**Author not named in sentence. Author’s last name and page number with the period after the parenthesis**

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" *(Wordsworth 263).*

**Author is named in a signal phrase**
**Sentence is paraphrased (written in student’s own words)**

**Wordsworth extensively explored** the role of emotion in the creative process *(263).*

**Note:** The author’s first and last name should be used on the first reference. Anytime after that just use the last name.
Your Reader’s Trail:

In-text Citation

Works Cited Page

Exact Location of the Source
Book Example

MLA Elements Include:

• Author(s).
• Title of Book.
• Publisher,
• Date of Publication.
Magazine or Journal Article in an Online Database

Possible components:

• Author’s name(s).
• “Title of article.” (in quotations)
• *Name of Journal or Magazine*, (italicized)
• Volume number,
• Issue number,
• Date of Publication,
• Page numbers.
• *Title of the Database*, (italicized)
• Permalink or D.O.I.
Why can’t I just copy and paste citations from the databases?

- Using citation generators in the databases is a good place to start.

- Be aware citations are not always formatted correctly.

- Double check them for accuracy using the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 8th edition* or other up to date citation guide.
Basic Web Publication

- Author and/or editor names (if available)
- Title of the work (in quotations, and if applicable)
- Title of the overall Web site (italicized)
- Publisher or sponsor of the site (if not available, use n.p.)
- Date of publication (if not available, use date of access)
- URL, Permalink, or D.O.I.
Web Publications - Examples


Works Cited


*An Inconvenient Truth*. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, performances by Al Gore and Billy West, Paramount, 2006.


Adapted from “MLA Sample Works Cited Page.” *Purdue Online Writing Lab*, 18 Aug. 2016, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/.
MLA-Style Works Cited Tips

• Prepare the works cited page in advance

• Center the title, Works Cited, an inch from the top of the page

• Alphabetize entries by author’s last name or by title if the author’s name is unavailable

• Double space entries and use hanging indents

• Titles of books, journals, magazines, databases and overall web sites are italicized

• Titles of articles, chapters, essays (the smaller element) are enclosed in quotation marks
MLA Style and Formatting
Where to Get Help

style.mla.org/
libguides.easternflorida.edu/writingcenter

owl.english.purdue.edu