

A Quick Guide to MLA Format

Parenthetical Citations (pgs. 213-230)

- You must indicate what information you used from each source and where in the work you found the material.
- Insert a parenthetical citation in your paper wherever you quote or paraphrase another's words, facts, or ideas.
- Each parenthetical citation must match up with an entry in your works cited.
- Include the author's last name and a page reference.
- If you include the author's name in the sentence, you should not repeat the name in the citation.

Example:

Medieval Europe was a place of "raids, pillages, slavery, and extortion" (Townsend 10).

The author's last name will allow the reader to find the complete source information on the works cited page and the exact page where the quote was taken.

Quotations (pgs. 92-105)

- Keep quotations as brief as possible.
- Quote only words, phrases, lines, and passages that are particularly interesting, vivid, unusual, or fitting.

- When copying the quote, make sure you keep the author's word order, punctuation, capitalization, etc...
- If you change a quotation at all, make the alteration clear to the reader.
- If the quote is less than four lines, put it in quotation marks and incorporate it into the text.

Example:

For Charles Dickens the eighteenth century was both "the best of times" and "the worst of times" (35).

Block Quote: If the quotation is more than **four lines**, set it off from the text with a colon, begin a new line, indent one inch from the left margin, and type it double-spaced, with **no quotation marks**.

Example:

At the conclusion of *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (186)

Examples from: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.

MLA Style

MLA documentation requires a Works Cited page and parenthetical citations in the text.

Plagiarism (pgs. 51-61)

Plagiarism is using another person's ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledgment.

Examples:

- Copying and pasting text into your paper without quotation marks or citations.
- Repeating or paraphrasing someone's wording without acknowledgment.
- Paraphrasing someone's argument or thoughts without acknowledgment.

Avoiding Plagiarism

- Keep the following three categories distinct in your notes: your ideas, your summaries of others' materials, and exact wording you copy.
- Identify the sources of all the material you borrow—exact wording, paraphrases, ideas, arguments, and facts.
- Read this pamphlet and other MLA references to learn how to cite your sources properly.



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Works Cited (pg. 129-133)

- Consists of an alphabetical list of all the works you cited in the paper.
- Appears at the end of the paper as its own page.
- Center the title “Works Cited” an inch from the top.
- Double space throughout.
- The first line should be flush against the left margin; any subsequent lines are indented one-half inch (hanging indent).

Citing Periodical Print Publications (pgs. 136-148)

1. Author’s name.
2. Title of the article (in quotation marks).
3. Name of periodical (italicized).
4. Series number or name.
5. Volume number.
6. Issue number.
7. Date of publication.
8. Page numbers.
9. Medium of publication (*Print*).
10. Supplementary info (see 5.4.12).

Example: Article in a Scholarly Journal:

Author’s name. “Title of the article.” *Title of the Periodical Series/Name#.Volume#* (Pub. Year): Page Range. Medium.

Barthelme, Frederick. “Architecture.” *Kansas Quarterly* 13.3-4 (1981): 77-80. Print.

Citing Nonperiodical Print Publications (pgs. 148-181)

1. Name of author, editor, compiler, or translator (see 5.5.4-9).
2. Title of the work (italicized).
3. Edition used (see 5.5.13).
4. Number(s) of the volume(s) used (see 5.5.14).
5. City of publication, name of the publisher, and year of publication.
6. Medium of publication consulted (Print).
7. Supplementary bibliographic information and annotation (see 5.5.15).

Example: Book by a Single Author:

Author’s name. *Title of the book*. City of Pub.: Publisher, Pub. Year. Medium.

Franke, Damon. *Modernist Heresies: British Literary History, 1883-1924*. Columbus: Ohio State UP, 2008. Print.

Citing Works in Anthologies (pgs. 157-160)

1. Author’s name.
2. Title of article (in quotation marks).
3. Name of anthology (in italics).
4. Editor(s) name.
5. City of publication, name of publisher, and year of publication.
6. Page numbers.
7. Medium of publication.

Example: A Work in an Anthology:

Bordo, Susan. “The Moral Content of Nabokov’s *Lolita*.” *Aesthetic Subjects*. Ed. Pamela R. Matthews and David McWhirter. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2003. 125-52. Print.

Citing Web Publications (pgs. 181-191)

1. Name of the author, compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, or translator of the work.
2. Title of the work (italicized if the work is independent; quotation marks if part of a larger work).
3. Title of overall Web site (italicized), if distinct from item 2.
4. Version or edition used (see 5.5.13)
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use *N.p.*
6. Date of publication; if not available, use *n.d.*
7. Medium of publication (Web).
8. Date of access (day, month, and year).

***Only include the URL when the reader probably cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it.**

See page 182 for info concerning URL formatting.

Example: A Work Cited Only on the Web

Green, Joshua. “The Rove Presidency.” *The Atlantic.com*. Atlantic Monthly Group, Sept. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

Citing Additional Common Sources (pgs. 193-211)

Consult the MLA handbook for other types of sources such as television, radio, film or video, performance, music, visual art, interview, map, cartoon, ad, lecture, manuscript, letter, email, legal document, or publication on CD-ROM.