Modern Language Association (MLA)
Style Guidelines Overview

Introduction
This poster overviews basic guidelines for using MLA style. To supplement this poster, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition). Publishing scholars and graduate students should also consult the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing (3rd edition). The MLA handbooks are available in most writing centers, libraries, and bookstores. You may also reference the Purdue University OWL for information on using MLA style: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/.

In-Text Citations
One Author
Use parenthetical citation to cite outside sources in your text. The page number(s) of your outside source should always appear in the parenthetical citation. The author’s name of the outside source may appear in the sentence itself.

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (265).

Or the author’s name can go in the parentheses following the quote.

Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous over flow of powerful feelings” (Wordsworth 267).

Multiple Authors
For a source with three or fewer authors, list the authors’ last names in the text or in the parenthetical citation.

Smith, Yang, and Moore argue that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).

The authors state “Tighter gun control in the U.S. erodes Second Amendment rights” (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

For a source with more than three authors, use the work’s bibliographic information as a guide for your citation. Provide the first author’s last name followed by et al or list all the last names.

Jones et al. counter Smith, Yang, and Moore’s argument by noting that the current spike in gun violence in America compels lawmakers to adjust gun laws (4).

No Known Author
For a source with no known author, use a shortened title of the resource in the parenthetical citation.

Many global warming hotspots exist in North America because this region has “comprehensive programs to monitor the environment” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).

Citing Multivolume Works
If you cite from different volumes of a multivolume work, always include the volume number followed by a colon.

... as Quintilian wrote in Institutio Oratoria (1: 14-17).

Internet Sources
For Internet sources, include the author’s name and the title of the page. You do not need a page or paragraph number in the parenthetical citation.

One online film critic stated that Fitzgerald’s novel is “... a scary critique of obsession” (Garcia, “Heros: a Life”).

Works Cited
Basics
List citations by author’s last name for entire edited collections, editor names in alphabetical order. Type last name first, then the middle names or middle initials. Indent subsequent lines for a hanging indent.

Book with One Author

Book with More Than One Author
The first given name appears in last name, first name format; subsequent author names appear first name, last name.


Book with No Known Author

Articles in Periodicals (Magazines and Newspapers)
For magazines, cite by listing the article’s author, then the title of the article in quotations marks, then the tabulated periodical title. Follow with the date of publication. Abbreviate the month.


Cite newspaper articles as you would magazine articles, but note the different pagination in a newspaper (late edition, A1).


Article in a Scholarly Journal

Internet Sources
MLA no longer requires URLs in citations. However, if your instructor requires URLs, list them after the date of access.


For an individual page on an Internet site, list the author if known, followed by the information covered above for entire sites. Use n.p. if no publisher name is available and n.d. if no publishing date is given.