MLA CITATION STYLE

In-text: (parenthetical) documentation follows this general format: (Author’s Last name page number).

- If there is NO author, the in-text citation uses the FIRST piece of information available in Works Cited entry.
- The author’s name can appear within the text itself as opposed to within the parentheses. (see Example 1 below).

MLA Works Cited:
References are all developed based on 9 Core Elements (see Figure 2 below). Any element that is not available is simply not included. (see Example 3 for a general example)

- When the person/group primarily responsible for the producing of the work is not the author, follow the name with a label that describes its role (e.g. editor, translator).
- The list should be double-spaced (as should the entire paper) and entries should be listed in alphabetical order by the first word in the entry (generally, the author’s last name – excluding articles, such as: a, an, & the).

  - Titles: In general, italicize the titles of sources that are self-contained and independent (e.g. books) and the titles of containers (e.g. anthologies); use quotation marks for the titles of sources that are contained in larger works (e.g. short stories, articles).
  - URLs and DOIs: When providing a URL, copy it in full from your Web browser (omitting http:// or https://). Articles are often assigned a DOI (digital object identifier); this will not change, even if the URL does. MLA prefers the use of a DOI instead of a URL, if available.

Example 1:
According to Naomi Baron, reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (194).

OR
Reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (Baron 194).

Example 3:
Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

*Note: the City of Publication should only be used if the book was published before 1900, if the publisher has offices in more than one country, or if the publisher is unknown in North America.

Author. Title. Title of container (self contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs URL or DOI). 2nd container’s title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

Figure 2: MLA Core Elements
# MLA Citation Style Examples


*for 3 or more authors – use the first author’s name and then, et al.

**In-Text:** (Dorris and Erdrich 201). OR (Dorris, et al. 201)


**In-Text:** (Baron 200).


**In-Text:** (Poe 258).


**In-Text:** (Tribble).

**Website:** *Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible*. Folger Shakespeare Library, manifoldgreatness.org.

**In-Text:** (Manifold Greatness).


**In-Text:** (Goldman 87-88).


**In-Text:** (Chan)


**In-Text:** (“Under the Gun”).


**In-Text:** (*NIV Bible*, Ezek. 1.5-10). – the first time this version is cited (Rev. 4.6-8). – if the same version is referenced throughout the paper, there is no need to include the edition after the 1st citation

Visit the Online Writing Lab @ Purdue University for more detailed citation information: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html

All information included on this handout references the 8th edition of the Modern Language Association Handbook. It is meant for quick reference only. For additional information, please check out the 8th edition available in Kinlaw Library or visit https://asbury.libguides.com/ask
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