MLA Citations & Works Cited, 8ᵗʰ Edition, 2016 Update

In-Text Citations

- In MLA style, referring to the works of others in your text is done by using what is known as parenthetical citation. This method involves placing relevant source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase.
- The source information required in a parenthetical citation depends (1.) upon the source medium (e.g. Print, Web) and (2.) upon the source's entry on the Works Cited page.
- Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page. More specifically, whatever signal word or phrase you provide to your readers in the text, must be the first thing that appears on the left-hand margin of the corresponding entry in the Works Cited List.

In-text citations for sources with a single author

- MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that 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 or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. For example:
  - **Wordsworth** stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" **(263)**.
  - Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" **(Wordsworth 263)**.
  - **Wordsworth** extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process **(263)**.
- Both citations in the examples above, (263) and (Wordsworth 263), tell readers that the information in the sentence can be located on page 263 of a work by an author named Wordsworth. If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the Works Cited page, where, under the name of Wordsworth, they would find the following information:
  - Wordsworth, William. *Lyrical Ballads*, Oxford UP, 1967.

In-text citations for a work by multiple authors

- For a source with two authors, list the authors' last names in the text or in the parenthetical citation:
  - **Best and Marcus** argue that one should read a text for what it says on its surface, rather than looking for some hidden meaning **(9)**.
  - The authors claim that surface reading looks at what is "evident, perceptible, apprehensible in texts" **(Best and Marcus 9)**.
- For a source with three or more authors, list only the first author's last name, and replace the additional names with et al.
  - **According to Franck et al,** "Current agricultural policies in the U.S. are contributing to the poor health of Americans" **(327)**.

- o The authors claim that one cause of obesity in the United States is government-funded farm subsidies **(Franck et al. 327)**.

In-text citations for sources with no known author

- When a source has no known author, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name. Place the title in quotation marks if it's a short work (such as an article) or italicize it if it's a longer work (e.g. plays, books, television shows, entire Web sites) and provide a page number (if available).
    - o We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . ." **("Solutions to Global Warming")**.
- In this example, since the reader does not know the author of the article, an abbreviated title of the article appears in the parenthetical citation which corresponds to the full name of the article which appears first at the left-hand margin of its respective entry in the Works Cited. Thus, the writer includes the title in quotation marks as the signal phrase in the parenthetical citation in order to lead the reader directly to the source on the Works Cited page. The Works Cited entry appears as follows:
    - o "Solutions to Global Warming in North America." *Union of Concerned Scientists*, 2011, http://www.climatehotmap.org/global-warming-solutions/north-america.html.

In-text citations for electronic sources

- Because electronic sources do not generally possess page numbers (unless they are direct scans or mock ups of an existing print source), page numbers are not required in your in-text citation. Instead, you will signal your source by including in parentheses your author's name (or the shortened title of the piece if the author's name is not available, as above).
    - o One online critic stated that Werner Herzog's film *Fitzcarraldo* "has become notorious for its near-failure and many obstacles" **(Taylor)**.

NOTE:

This document adapted and abridged from material provided by the ***Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)****. For more assistance with MLA (or if the answer to your question isn't covered here), consult Purdue OWL's extensive online guide at the following web address:* **https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/**

MLA Works Cited Page: Guidelines & Format
(10 Most Frequently Used Source Types)

A BOOK WITH ONE AUTHOR

The basic form for a book citation, if the book has only a single author, is:

> **Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Year.**

> Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. Penguin, 1987.

A BOOK WITH MORE THAN ONE AUTHOR

When a book has multiple authors, order the authors in the same way they are presented in the book. The first given name appears in last name, first name format; subsequent author names appear in first name last name format.

> **Last name, First name, and Second Author's Name. *Title*. Publisher, Publication Year.**

> Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

If there are three or more authors, list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (Latin for "and others") in place of the subsequent authors' names. (Note that there is a period after "al" in "et al." Also note that there is never a period after the "et" in "et al.").

> Wysocki, Anne Frances**, et al.** *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004.

A TRANSLATED BOOK

If you want to emphasize the work rather than the translator, cite as you would any other book. Add "translated by" and follow with the name(s) of the translator(s).

> **Last name, First name. *Title*. Translated by Translator's Name, Publisher, Year.**

> Foucault, Michel. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*. Translated by Richard Howard, Vintage-Random House, 1988.

AN EDITION OF A BOOK

There are two types of editions in book publishing: a book that has been published more than once in different editions and a book that is prepared by someone other than the author:

A Subsequent Edition
Cite the book as you normally would, but add the number of the edition after the title.

> **Last name, First name (and any additional author names). *Title*. Edition number, Publisher, Year.**

> Crowley, Sharon, and Debra Hawhee. *Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2004.

A Work Prepared by an Editor
Cite the book as you normally would, but add the editor after the title with the label, "Edited by"

> **Last name, First name. *Title*. Edited by Editor's Name, Publisher, Year.**

> Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. Edited by Margaret Smith, Oxford UP, 1998.

A WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY, REFERENCE, OR COLLECTION

Works may include an essay in an edited collection or anthology, or a chapter of a book. The basic form is for this sort of citation is as follows:

> **Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." Title of Collection, edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.**

> Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*, edited by Ben Rafoth, Heinemann, 2000, pp. 24-34.

A JOURNAL ARTICLE FROM AN ONLINE DATABASE

Cite articles from online databases (e.g. *LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR, ScienceDirect)* and other subscription services as containers. Thus, provide the title of the database italicized before the DOI or URL. If a DOI is not provided, use the URL instead.

> **Last name, First name. "Title." *Journal Title*, volume number, issue number, date of publication, page range. *Database name*, DOI or URL.**

> Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96. *ProQuest*, doi:10.1017/S0018246X0600 5966.

A PAGE ON A WEB SITE

For an individual page on a Web site, list editor, author, or compiler name (if available), name of website, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink, and date of access (if creation date unavailable). If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.

> **Last name, First name (if available). "Title."** *Website***, Date of creation, URL. (Access date, if no date of creation).**

> Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*, 25 Sept. 2014, www.ehow.com/how_10727_make-vegetarian-chili.html.

> "Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview. Accessed 6 July 2015.

A YOUTUBE VIDEO

Video and audio sources need to be documented using the same basic guidelines for citing print sources in MLA style. If the author's name is the same as the uploader, only cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploaded, cite the author's name before the title.

> **Last name, First name (if different from uploader). "Title."** *Youtube***, uploaded by Uploader name, Date of upload, URL.**

> "8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test." *YouTube*, uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 June 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs.

> McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.

A PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Personal interviews refer to those interviews that you conduct yourself. List the interview by the name of the interviewee. Include the descriptor Personal interview and the date of the interview.

> **Last name, First name (person interviewed). Personal interview. Date of interview.**

> Smith, Jane. Personal interview. 19 May 2014.

A FILM OR MOVIE

List films by their title. Include the name of the director, the film studio or distributor, and the release year. If relevant, list performer names after the director's name.

> *Title***. Directed by Director's name, performances by Actor's name, Actor's name, and Actor's name (if relevant), Studio/Distributor name, Year of Release.**

Sample Works Cited Page

- A Works Cited should be separate from the body of your essay. Thus (<u>unlike</u> the example on this sheet), it should begin at the top line of a brand new page.
- Title is 'Works Cited' or 'Work Cited' (if only containing one citation), and **not** 'Bibliography'. Center on page. No bold, italics, or underline.
- Title and entries the same font size (12 point).
- Double spaced throughout.
- Alphabetize entries.
- Indent every line after the first in each individual entry. (Place cursor at end of first line, press 'Enter/Return' on keyboard, then press 'tab'. If entry extends beyond second line, place cursor at the beginning of every following line and press 'tab'.)
- For online sources, you should include a location to show readers where you found the source. Many scholarly databases use a DOI (digital object identifier). Use a DOI in your citation if you can; otherwise use a URL. Delete "http://" from URLs. The DOI or URL is usually the last element in a citation and should be followed by a period.
- All works cited entries end with a period.

Works Cited

"8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test." *YouTube*, uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 June 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs.

Alonso, Alvaro, and Julio A. Camargo. "Toxicity of Nitrite to Three Species of Freshwater Invertebrates." *Environmental Toxicology*, vol. 21, no. 1, 3 Feb. 2006, pp. 90-94. *Wiley Online Library*, doi:10.1002/tox.20155.

"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview. Accessed 6 July 2015.

Langhamer, Claire. "Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England." *Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2007, pp. 173-96. *ProQuest*, doi:10.1017/S0018246X0600 5966.

Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004.