



A Guide to In-Text citations in MLA Format

What is MLA?

- **MLA** stands for **M**odern **L**anguage **A**ssociation
- It is one of many different formats for how a research paper looks and how sources are cited within the paper
- Click the link below for a visual example (with notes) of a paper written in MLA format.

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/melisdia/pdf/20090701095636_747.pdf

What is the MLA recipe for my works cited page?



BOOK



WEBSITE

EBSCO

INFORMATION SERVICES

DATABASE

[Click HERE for tips to cite almost any source in MLA 8](#)

What Are In-Text Citations? Why Do I Need Them?

- They tell your reader what source you are quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing in your paper at that point in the paper.
- Any source that is quoted, paraphrased, or summarized in your paper must be noted in-text and in your works cited page.

Print Source - Author Known...

- For print sources (books, magazines...) with a single named author, the in-text citation would look like this:

Note: there is a single space between the name and page number

This is my example sentence (last name page number).

This is my example sentence **(Hughes 5)**.

Print Source - Author Unknown...

- If the print source (book, magazine...) does not list an author, the title of the work should replace the author's last name in the parenthesis.
- Depending on the work, the title should appear in quotation marks or be italicized. Short sources (chapters, articles, pamphlets) should be in quotations. Longer sources (books, plays...) should be italicized.

This is my example sentence (“**Writing Research Papers Is Not Fatal**” 4).

Print Source with Multiple Authors...

- If the source has two or three authors, list the last names of the authors as they are listed in the book:

2 authors - This is my example sentence (Simpson and Dieckmann 201).

3 authors - This is my example sentence (Simpson, Whiting and Dieckmann 107).

4 or more authors - list the last name of the first author and then et al (which is Latin for “and others”).

This is my example sentence (Simpson et al. 87).

Online Source - Author Known

- If the online source (website, online article...) lists an author, then the same guidelines as print sources exist. Cite the author's name following the quoted, paraphrased, or summarized text.

This is my example sentence (Washington).

Page numbers will not be necessary when citing online sources

Online Source - Author Unknown

- If a source is trustworthy and credible (whether you have had to evaluate the site or whether you are using a trusted database or online source) then the title of the website or online article should replace the author's name.

This is my example sentence ([Time.com](#)).

Note: However the source will be listed on the Works Cited page is how it should be referenced in the in-text citation

Good Website Resources for Creating Citations

The following links provide some good online resources to help with determining the format for MLA style papers, in-text citations, and Works Cited format.

[MLA Sample Works Cited Page](#)

[MLA Quick Reference Sheet](#)

[Complete Guide to MLA 8](#)

Works Cited

Angeli Elizabeth L. and Professor Patricia Sullivan English

624 12 February 2012 (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

EasyBib. Chegg, n.d. Web. 06 Dec. 2016.

"Welcome to the Purdue OWL." Purdue OWL: MLA

Formatting and Style Guide. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Dec.

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