

What is MLA Format?

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities.

This resource, updated to reflect the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th ed.) and the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing (3rd ed.), offers examples for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the Works Cited page.

Where do I find MLA format? help?

- The MLA Handbook is available in libraries; it is also widely available in bookstores and at the MLA web site. www.mla.org

What are the MLA Writing Basics?

In-Text Citation Rules

In MLA style, referring to the works of others in your text is done by using what's known as parenthetical citation.

General Rules: (See Examples below)

1. If the information is presented in quotes, cite the (author's last name and page number).
2. If the author's name is used in the sentence, cite the (page number).
3. If an introductory sentence includes the author's name, cite the (page number).
4. If the information runs longer than four lines of text, use block quotes, that is, indent the margins of the text . Place the citation after the period. (author's last name and page number)
5. If the information is paraphrased using the author's name, cite the (page number).
6. If the information has no given author, use an abbreviated title instead. Use italics or underline book titles; use quotes for article titles. (*Architecture of Migration* 16) or ("Architecture of Migration" 16)

Examples:

Simple Sentence Citations:

1. Name not stated in sentence—

"The stove-house had a doorway and a window opening as well as a vent hole" (Hutslar 14).

2. Name stated in sentence—

Donald Hutslar noted "The stove house had a doorway and a window opening as well as a vent hole" (14).

4. Indented Citations:

Because of the great numbers of Scotch-Irish, a migration wave was generated in the colonies, particularly to the west and south into south-central Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. Thus, by the third quarter of the eighteenth century, due to the movement of the Scotch- Irish as well as the Germans, log building had become the common constructional mode on the boundaries of colonial settlement. (Hutslar 16)

3. Introductory Sentence Citations:

According to Hustlar, Marco Polo's description of early Russian dwellings corresponded with later European log cabins called stove-houses: The stove-house had a door way and a window opening as well as a vent hole (14).

5. Paraphrasing Citations:

Hustlar claims that the design of American pioneer log cabins came from the Northern European traditions of stove-houses (14).

Resources for In-Text Citation

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6enxeLsG7o>

<http://library.laguardia.edu/files/pdf/mlastyle.pdf>

http://www.umuc.edu/library/libhow/mla_examples.cfm

Plagiarism Resources

Plagiarism a piece of writing or other work reflecting such unauthorized use or imitation.

http://www.writing.northwestern.edu/avoiding_plagiarism.html

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

<http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/overview/>

MLA In-Text Citations

What You Are Citing	
<p>The entire work (or work with no page numbers)</p> <p>Include information in the text of your paper that will allow the reader to locate the source in your works cited list.</p> <p>If it is not possible to include this information in the text, follow the sentence where the citation needs to be made with an in-text citation containing only the name of the author</p>	<p>In his article "Allston Gothic," local historian Forman Jackson demonstrates how completely the neighborhood's gruesome past has been forgotten by its residents.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A recent newspaper article demonstrated just how thoroughly the neighborhood's gruesome past has been forgotten by its residents (Jackson)</p>
A specific page	(Harris 70)
If the author's name is included in the text of the sentence where the citation takes	Jacobs has argued this point
Multi-volume set	(Jacobs 1:112-14) "1" is the volume number
In-text examples	
Author Courtois, Charles A.	In-Text Citation (Courtois 70)
<p>Two or three authors</p> <p>Marian, Jonathan A., and Christopher Jackson.</p> <p>Hughes, Jane C., Elizabeth V. Brestan and Linda Anne Valle.</p>	<p>(Martin and Jackson 127-28)</p> <p>(Hughes, Brestan, and Valle 2-3)</p>
<p>Four or more authors</p> <p>Fontela, Pablo, Antonio Sorio, Javier Mielgo, and Juan de Blas.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Fontela, Pablo, et al.</p> <p>If a work has more than 3 authors, MLA gives you the option of listing only the first author followed by "et al" (Latin for "and others").</p>	<p>(Fontela, Sorio, Mielgo, and Blas 153-54)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>(Fontela et al. 153-54)</p>
<p>No authors listed</p> <p>"None to Claim Their Bones: Relics of an Old Brooklyn Graveyard." <i>New York Times</i> 8 Apr. 1888: 3-4. <i>ProQuest Newspapers</i>. Web. 10 June</p>	<p>("None to Claim Their Bones" 3)</p> <p>In-text citations should include the title and the page number(s) of the text you are quoting or referring to, with the titles of articles in quotations, and the titles of books or Web sites italicized. In cases where the title contains a</p>
<p>Group authors</p> <p>Modern Language Association.</p>	(Modern Language Association 111)