Library FAQ: MLA Citation Style

When you reference another’s work in your own papers or essays, you need to cite that author’s work. MLA Citation Style is typically used to cite work in English and humanities disciplines.

What is Plagiarism?

When you take someone else’s work, words, and/or ideas and then use them as your own, you are committing plagiarism. Besides this traditional definition, plagiarism also includes:

- Re-arranging an author’s words (paraphrasing) and using it without a citation
- Using someone else's ideas without citing the source
- Using a photograph or image and not including a citation
- Submitting the same paper for two different assignments

Sometimes you may even plagiarize accidentally. Luckily there are plenty of resources to prevent that from happening.

How Do I Cite in MLA Style?

When creating a citation, you will need two things:

- In-text or parenthetical citations – located within the body of your paper
- Works Cited or Bibliography – reference list that appears at the end of your paper.

There are some basic rules to follow when creating a Works Cited in MLA Citation Style:

- The Works Cited should start on a separate page at the end of your research paper.
- Use 1-inch margins and same header as previous pages.
- Page should be labeled Works Cited without italics or quotation marks. Should be at top center of page.
- All citations should be double-spaced.
- The second and each subsequent line of a citation should have a hanging indent (0.5 inches).
- The citations in your reference list need to be in alphabetical order by author last name.
- Use italics for titles of larger works (books, magazines) and quotation marks for titles of shorter works (poems, articles).
When creating a citation, center core elements generally come in a certain order: 1) Author 2) Title of source 3) Title of container 4) Other contributors 5) Version 6) Number 7) Publisher 8) Publication date 9) Location.

For more details on citing specific sources, continue to the “MLA Citation Reference List” page.

**What Are Parenthetical Citations?**

First off, **parenthetical citations = in-text citations.**

In-text citations are a brief reference in the text of your essay that indicates the source you consulted. These should be used when you borrow ideas, paraphrase or directly quote someone else’s work.

To create an in-text citation, you will need the author(s) last name(s) and the exact page number in the source where you found the quote or idea. In-text citations are generally formatted as: **(Lastname page#)** or **(Smith 50)**. The sentence punctuation should be placed outside the parentheses.

An example of this is:

*Imperialism is “the practice, the theory, and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan center ruling a distant territory”* (Said 9).

In-text citations can also be used in another way. If you mention the author before the quote, then you only need a page number in the parentheses. Check out this example:

*According to Edward W. Said, imperialism is defined by “the practice, the theory, and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan center ruling a distant territory”* (9).

For additional examples of in-text citations of non-traditional sources, please check out the attached “MLA Citation Reference List.”

If you have questions about creating citations, here are some resources to help you out:

- Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab (OWL): MLA Style
- MLA Style Center
- Credo InfoLit Modules
  - Video: MLA Citation Style
- MLA Handbook
- Garrett College Instructional Librarian – reference@garrettcollege.edu
- Garrett College Tutoring Center
- Your professor
MLA Citation Reference List

Articles

Article (from a database) with one author:


In-Text Citations

(Last name page number)

(Geuss 20)

Article (print) with one author:


In-Text Citations

(Last name page number)

(Neve 1728)

Article (found using Google) with one author:

Lastname, First M. "Title of Article." Title of Publication or Overall Website. Publisher or Sponsors of the Site, Publication Date. Web. Date accessed.


In-Text Citations

(Last name)

(Cohen)
**Article (from a database) with two authors:**


**In-Text Citations**

(Last name and Last Name page number)

(Lykken and Tellegen 187)

**Article (from a database) with three authors:**


**In-Text Citations**

(Last name, Surname, and Mous page number)

**More than three authors? List all authors or use the format below:**


**In-Text Citations**

(Authrone et al. page number)

**Books**

**Book with one author:**

Lastname, First M. *Title of Book: Subtitle of Book*. Publication Location: Publisher, Date. Print.


**In-Text Citations**

_Last name page number_

(Munro 224)
Books with multiple authors:

The format follows the author format as listed under articles.

An edited book:

Editor, First M., ed. *Title of Book: Subtitle of Book*. Publication Location: Publisher, Date. Print.


In-Text Citations

(Last name and Last name page number)

(Cahn and Vitrano 48)

An online book:

Lastname, First M. *Title of Book: Subtitle of Book*. Publication Location: Publisher, Date. Site Sponsor. Web. Date accessed.


In-Text Citations

(Last name) OR (Last name page number) if a page/paragraph number is provided

(Wainewright)

Web Sites

Web site with one author:

Author, Firstname M. *Title of Site*. Sponsor of Site, Date Published. Web. Date accessed.


In-Text Citations

(Last name)
Web site with a corporate or organizational author:

Corporation or Organization Name. *Title of Site*. Sponsor of Site, *Date Published*. Web. *Date accessed*.


In-Text Citations

(Abbreviated Corporation or Organization Name)

(Young Foundation)

Images

Image from an online source with a creator listed:

Creator, First M. *Title of Image*. *Date created*. Description. Web. *Date accessed*.


In-Text Citations

(Creator)

(Swanbrow)

Image from an online source with no creator listed:

*Title of image*. *Date created*. Description of image. Web. *Date accessed*.

In-Text Citations

(“Title of Image”)

Image from a print source with a creator listed:

Creator, F. M. *Date created*. Title of image. [Continue the remainder of the citation with title of book or article as appropriate.]
In-Text Citations

(Creator page number)

If you have any questions, please contact the Instructional Librarian at 301-387-3022 or reference@garrettcollege.edu.

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