MLA In-Text Citation Examples

When citing a source in the text of your paper, MLA style uses parenthetical in-text citations to tell readers where you obtained your information or ideas.

You must credit any information you get from another source, including paraphrased text, direct quotations, and original ideas.

In-text citations contain the author’s last name and the page number, and are placed at the end of the sentence or paragraph that refers to the source.

Example: A journal article written by John Smith would be cited like this in the text of the paper:

Many students have difficulty learning MLA style at first (Smith 10).

or

Smith stated that many students have difficulty learning MLA style (10).

If there is no author, use the first word of the title in double quote marks.

If there is no page number, use the person’s name alone.

Example: A Web page called “Student Guide to Using MLA,” with no page number would be cited like this in the text of the paper:

It is important to use MLA correctly so that others can verify your research (“Student”).

Note: Do not include the URL of a website you cite in the body of your paper, unless required by your instructor.

If you are quoting directly from a source, you must include the page number the quote is found on.

Example: A quote by John Smith, published in a book would be cited like this in the text of the paper:

Smith stated, “Quite a few students encounter difficulties whenever they attempt to learn MLA for the first time” (122-3).

or

“Quite a few students encounter difficulties whenever they attempt to learn MLA for the first time” (Smith 122-3).

If you are quoting from a quote within a source (secondary work), you reference the source you are using, not the source of the quote.

Example: A study by Seidenberg and McClelland cited in an article by Coltheart would be cited like this in the text of the paper:

The study by Seidenberg and McClelland “fills a major gap in previous research” (qtd. in Coltheart: 53).

Note - Include media in Works Cited as follows:

- Print - used for books, chapters, and articles.
- Web - used for databases, online articles, and electronic archives, followed by date accessed.
- Other media are descriptive - CD, film, DVD, slides, filmstrip, vocal score, map, letter, e-mail.

MLA Reference Guide

What is MLA format?

The Modern Language Association of America, both a professional association and a publisher, has since 1951 established style rules to encourage ease of reading, accuracy, and respect in scholarly communication. In March, 2009, the 7th edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers was published.

This edition incorporates significant revisions of MLA style. Additionally, a web component has been added at: http://www.mlahandbook.org. However, the site provides limited access to information without an access code from the MLA Manual.

Basic MLA Citation Elements & Order of Appearance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

How do I get help?

Always check with your instructor. He or she is the final authority on what your paper should look like, even if his or her requirements differ from the guidelines outlined in the MLA manual!

- Online Writing Center consultants are available.
  - Visit their webpage: http://www.nu.edu/OurPrograms/StudentServices/writingcenter.html
  - Make an appointment for an online consultation: http://tutor.nu.edu/

- Librarians are available for reference assistance.
  - Call 1-866-NU-ACCESS (579000 or “Library”)
  - Send an e-mail to: refdesk@nu.edu

Library
refdesk@nu.edu
To ask for reference assistance

Writing Center
http://nu.mywconline.com
To schedule an online consultation

Library
refdesk@nu.edu
To ask for reference assistance

Writing Center
http://nu.mywconline.com
To schedule an online consultation
### Sample Reference List

**Book (corporate authors):**

**Webpage:**

**Dissertation:**

**Image:**

**Edited Book:**

**Podcast:**

**Online or Electronic Book:**

**Blog Entry:**

**DVD:**

**Note:** Reference entries are double-spaced with a hangiing indent. One space follows all punctuation. Give the author’s last name and first name. Capitalize each word of the title, subtitle, and proper nouns (if any). Do not capitalize articles, like *the* or *a*, prepositions, or conjunctions. Italicize the title of the work if it is a complete work or place it in double quotes if it is part of a larger work, such as a chapter of a book.