Introduction to MLA Style Citation
What is Citing?

The way you tell your readers that certain material in your work came from another source.

It also gives your readers the information necessary to find that source again, including:

- information about the author
- the title of the work
- the name and location of the company that published your copy of the source
- the date your copy was published
- the page numbers of the material you are borrowing

Source: Plagiarism.org
What is MLA Style Citation?

MLA style was created by the Modern Language Association.

It is a set of rules for:
• Citing your sources
• Formatting your essays
MLA Citation Guide

In this guide you’ll learn about MLA Style rules for:

• Citing various information sources
• Creating in-text citations
• Formatting your essay and other assignments

seneca.libguides.com/mla
MLA Style Formatting
View the MLA Sample Paper Template


How Do I Cite Sources in MLA?
Citing in MLA has 2 parts

1. In-text citations


Begin the first paragraph of your research paper with a half-inch indent. Your first sentence is what should immediately follow the title.

As your paper develops, you will want to incorporate your research. Sometimes you will use direct quotes that “duplicate the original source word for word” (Kolz). Other times, you will put the ideas from your research into your own words, and that paraphrased material must also be cited in-text (Dworkin 3). You cite a website with an author the same way you would an article (Poncelet). Even if your information came from a website without an author, you must cite that source, just using the first word or first couple words of the title in quotation marks.

At the end of your paper, you will list all of your sources in a Works Cited List. The

2. Works Cited page citations


Begin the first paragraph of your research paper with a half-inch indent. Your first sentence is what should immediately follow the title.

As your paper develops, you will want to incorporate your research. Sometimes you will use direct quotes that “duplicate the original source word for word” (Koltz).

Other times, you will put the ideas from your research into your own words, and that paraphrased material must also be cited in-text (Dworkin 3).

You cite a website with an author the same way you would an article (Poncelet). Even if your information came from a website without an author, you must cite that source, just using the first word or first couple words of the title in quotation marks.
Paraphrasing example

*Using your own words to describe an author’s idea*

Developing self-awareness is a lifelong process that requires continual work (Mohr 3).

In-text citation

(author's last name page number if given)
Example of Quoting Directly

Using an author’s exact words

“Social cognition includes self-knowledge, your knowledge of other people, others’ knowledge of themselves, and their knowledge of you” (Bosacki et al. 190).

In-text citation
(Author's Last Name Page Number if given)

Note: If your source has 3 or more authors, list the first author’s last name followed by "et al." in your in-text citation.
Remember!
All sources in your references list must have a matching in-text citation within the body of your paper.
Check out the MLA Citation Guide to learn how to cite different sources
### Example: Citing a Book with One Author

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works Cited Page Citation</th>
<th>Author's Last Name, First Name. <em>Title of Book: Subtitle if Any</em>. Edition if given and is not first edition, Publisher Name often shortened, Year of publication.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Text Citation</th>
<th>(Author's Last Name Page Number)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>(Kirsh 70)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Example: Citing a Newspaper Article from a Website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works Cited Page Citation</th>
<th>Author's Last Name, First Name. &quot;Title of Article: Subtitle if Any.&quot; <em>Title of website</em>, Name of Newspaper, Date of Publication, URL. Accessed access date.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>This entry has no page numbers, so this information is left out of the citation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Text Citation</th>
<th>(Author's Last Name Page Number)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td><em>(Schmidt A11)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Example: Citing a Website by a Group Author

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works Cited Page Citation</th>
<th>Name of Corporation/Group/Organization. &quot;Title of Section.&quot; <em>Title of Website</em>, Publisher or Sponsoring Organization, Date of publication or last modified date, URL. Accessed access date.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Note:** When the page is authored and published by the same corporation/group/organization, begin your citation with the section title.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Text Citation</th>
<th>(&quot;Title of Section&quot;)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>(&quot;Audit and Assurance&quot;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Example: Citing an Infographic by a Group Author

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works Cited Page Citation</th>
<th>Author's Last Name, First Name or Group Author's Name. “Title of Infographic: Subtitle if Available.” <em>Title of Website</em>, Date Posted or Updated, URL.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>Begin your citation with the title of the infographic if the author is the same as the title of the website.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Text Citation</th>
<th>(“Title of Infographic”)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>(“Infographic: Population Projections”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Digital Assignments

e.g., presentation slides, videos, websites
Citing Sources in Digital Assignments

• Check with your professor on their preferred citation style

• You may be required to use formal citation (e.g., APA, MLA) or informal citation (e.g., including the source and creator)
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