



MLA Citation Format Adapted from the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition

MLA citation format is a method for documenting the sources of information you use in your paper. The proper use of a citation format such as MLA can help you avoid plagiarism.

In-text citations let your reader know when you've used information from another source. A citation in the text of your paper corresponds to a source listed on your works cited page and is typically composed of the item that comes first in your works cited entry (usually the author's last name) and the page number, if one exists. This information is included in your paper in parentheses following the quoted or paraphrased text at the nearest natural pause in the sentence.

You must cite the source within your text any time you use others' work, facts, ideas, statistics, diagrams, charts, drawings, music, or words in your paper. Whether you quote, paraphrase, or summarize a single phrase or a whole chapter, you must acknowledge the original author no matter how much of the source you use or how often you use it.

When you quote from a source, be sure to put quotation marks around the author's exact words, and be sure the quoted material is copied exactly. Even if you use just a few words from an author in a sentence that is mostly your own, you still have to use quotation marks around those apt words and cite your source parenthetically at the end of the sentence.

When you paraphrase, or put information from a source into your own words, you must change not only the words of the original source, but also the sentence structure, and you must cite the source within your text. Even if your whole paragraph is a paraphrase or summary of one source, it is not acceptable to cite only at the end of the paragraph. You must clearly signal where your borrowing begins and cite throughout the paragraph as necessary to make clear to your reader that you are still borrowing from the same source.

*****Some professors prefer that their students use a modified form of MLA, or they waive some requirements while adding additional ones. Always follow the paper guidelines set forth by your professor, even if they conflict with standard MLA format.*****

Examples of In-text Citation

1. One critic complains of the authors, "They're sheep in wolves' clothing who manage to write about bad things and make you feel good" (Bukiet 35).
[Note that both the author and page number are cited in parentheses.]
2. Anna Funder explains that the Stasi "was a bureaucracy metastasized through East German society" (5).
[Because the author's name is given in the sentence, only the page number is cited in parentheses.]

3. The study found that refugee children five years of age and younger had a much higher incidence of wasting and stunting and a lower incidence of obesity than low-income children of the same age range in Washington State (Dawson-Hahn et al. 8).
[Even if you paraphrase, you still must provide a citation at the end of the sentence. If a source as three or more authors, cite only the first author's name followed by et al.]
4. According to Salwa Ismail, “womanhood is constructed as an asset and a shield to be deployed in the face of abusive authorities” (qtd. in Blaydes and El Tarouty 375).
[If you quote or paraphrase text that is itself quoted from another source, you should cite the indirect source—the one that you have accessed and read yourself—not the original one. Begin your in-text citation with qtd. in, which is short for quoted in.]
5. Most of the reports submitted to the Starbucks Business and Ethics Compliance Department address issues in the category of employee relations (“Business Ethics”).
[If the source does not list an author, use the first word or two of the title in your parenthetical citation. In this example, the source does not have page numbers because it is a web site.]
6. Louis Herman and his colleagues used hand and arm signals to communicate with the dolphins: “For instance, a pumping motion of the closed fists meant ‘hoop,’ and both arms extended overhead (as in jumping jacks) meant ‘ball’” (Morell 54).
[You may use a colon after a full sentence to introduce a quotation. When quotation marks are included in the original text, the internal (or original) quotations marks become single.]
7. After his father hits and subsequently lectures him, Sarty experiences a burgeoning sense of hopelessness:

It was as if the blow and the following calm, outrageous voice still rang, repercussed, divulging nothing to him save the terrible handicap of being young, the light weight of his few years, just heavy enough to prevent his soaring free of the world as it seemed to be ordered but not heavy enough to keep him footed solid in it, to resist it and try to change the course of its events. (Faulkner 713)

Sarty feels as if he is caught in limbo, old enough to be aware of the complexities in the world around him but still too young to have any control over his life.

[Long quotations are indented half an inch from the left margin without quotation marks, and the period is placed before the parenthetical citation. After the blocked quotation, your analysis of the quote should continue at the left margin.]
8. In Egypt, “For many low income women . . . voting is less of a political act and more of an informal economic activity” (Blaydes and El Tarouty 371).
[Use an ellipsis—three periods with spaces in between—to show that words were left out of the middle of the quoted sentence. A period followed by an ellipsis indicates material left out between two sentences, rather than in the middle of one.]
9. Boccaccio preferred to read literature that was “cellular” in terms of organization with stories told in “autonomous sequences” instead of one long narrative (Usher xviii).
[Be sure to use quotation marks around key words from your source and cite parenthetically at the end of the sentence.]

10. In response to Juror Ten's racist comment, Juror Nine exclaims, "Only an ignorant man can believe that! Do you think you were born with a monopoly on the truth?" (*12 Angry Men* 00:11:22-27).

[For works in a time-based media, such as audio and video recordings, cite the relevant time or range of times displayed in your media player in the form of hours, minutes, and seconds, separated by colons.]

The MLA Works Cited List, Adapted from the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition

The works cited list gives full bibliographic information for all works cited in your paper. The basic format for all MLA works cited entries includes as much of the following information as is available, as well as the appropriate punctuation:

Author. Title of source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

The color highlighting on this handout is simply a key to help you identify the various parts of the works cited entries. Your works cited list should appear in black ink only.

Note that many sources have more than one container. For instance, the first source on the works cited page below has a primary container, the journal in which the article was printed, and a secondary container, the database which stores the journal.

Double-space your entire list. Indent the second and all subsequent lines of any single works-cited entry; this is called a **hanging indent**. Be sure to pay attention to details like alphabetical order, capitalization of titles, and placement of periods and commas.

No more than two authors are listed for a single source. A work with **three or more authors** lists the name of the first author followed by *et al.* See Dawson-Hahn *et al.* below as an example.

Works Cited

Blaydes, Lisa, and Sainaz El Tarouty. "Women's Electoral Participation in Egypt: The Implications of Gender for Voter Recruitment and Mobilization." *Middle East Journal*, vol. 63, no. 1, June 2009, pp. 364-380. *Academic Search Elite*, doi:10.1353/mej.0.0079. [This example is an article from a **scholarly journal in an online database**.]

Bukiet, Melvin Jules. "Wonder Bread." *The American Scholar*, vol. 76, no. 4, Autumn 2007, pp. 22-35. [This example is an article from a **scholarly journal**.]

"Business Ethics and Compliance." *Starbucks Coffee*, 2016, www.starbucks.com/about-us/company-information/business-ethics-and-compliance. [This is a page from a **website**.]

Dawson-Hahn, Elizabeth E., et al. "Comparison of the Nutritional Status of Overseas Refugee Children with Low Income Children in Washington State." *PLoS ONE*, vol. 11, no. 1, 25 Jan. 2016, pp. 1-13. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0147854. [This is another article from a **scholarly journal in an online database**.]

Faulkner, William. "Barn Burning." *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, edited by Alison Booth, J. Paul Hunter, and Kelly J. Mays, 9th ed., Norton, 2005, pp. 710-22. [This example is a **story found in an anthology or collection**. The page numbers reflect the entire span of the story.]

Funder, Anna. *Stasiland: True Stories from Behind the Berlin Wall*. Granta, 2003. [This is a **book**.]

Morell, Virginia. "Animal Minds." *National Geographic*, Mar. 2008, pp. 36-61. [This is a **magazine article**.]

12 Angry Men. Directed by Sidney Lumet, MGM, 1957. *YouTube*, uploaded by Peg Bouges, 16 Jan. 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfAbTyAcgpE. [This is a **video** found on the web.]

Usher, Jonathan. Introduction. *The Decameron*, by Giovanni Boccaccio, translated by Guido Waldman, Oxford UP, 1993, pp. xv-xxxii. [This example cites an **introduction** to a book.]