

(Heading your paper)

Your Name
Teacher
English 2
Due Date

Guide to MLA Citations

MLA (Modern Language Association) Style formatting is often used in various humanities disciplines.

In addition to the handbook, MLA also offers **The MLA Style Center**, a website that provides additional instruction and resources for writing and formatting academic papers. <https://style.mla.org/>

An MLA Style paper should:

- Be typed on white 8.5" x 11" paper
- Double-space everything
- Use 12 pt. Times New Roman (or similar) font
- Leave only one space after punctuation
- Set all margins to 1 inch on all sides
- Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch
- Have a header with page numbers located in the upper right-hand corner
- Use italics for titles
- Place endnotes on a separate page before the list of works cited

The first page of an MLA Style paper will:

- Have **no title page**
- **Double space** everything
- **List your name, your instructor's name, the course, and date** in the **upper left-hand corner**
- **Center the paper title** (use standard caps but no underlining, italics, quote marks, or bold typeface)
- **Create a header** in the upper right corner at half inch from the top and one inch from the right of the page (list **your last name and page number** here)

An **in-text citation** is a brief reference in your text that indicates the source you consulted.

- It should direct readers to the entry in your works-cited list for that source.
- It should be unobtrusive: provide the citation information without interrupting your own text.
- In general, the in-text citation will be the author's last name (or abbreviated title) with a page number, enclosed in parentheses.

In-text Example:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263). Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263). Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

How to cite a work with no known author:

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change...” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).

Works with Multiple Editions

In-text example:

Marx and Engels described human history as marked by class struggles (79; ch. 1).

Authors with Same Last Names

In-text example:

Although some medical ethicists claim that cloning will lead to designer children (R. Miller 12), others note that the advantages for medical research outweigh this consideration (A. Miller 46).

Work by Multiple Authors

In-text Examples:

- Smith et al. argues that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).
- The authors state: “Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights” (Smith et al. 76).

Citing Indirect Sources

In-text example:

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as “social service centers, and they don't do that well” (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Multiple Citations

In-text example:

Romeo and Juliet presents an opposition between two worlds: “the world of the everyday... and the world of romance.” Although the two lovers are part of the world of romance, their language of love nevertheless becomes “fully responsive to the tang of actuality” (Zender 138, 141).

Sources without page numbers

In-text example:

Disability activism should work toward “creating a habitable space for all beings” (Garland-Thomson).