MLA Quick Guide

- The format most widely accepted for research papers and citations is that of the Modern Language Association, or MLA Format.
- While MLA provides formatting guidelines for many aspects of paper-writing, including spacing, margins, headers, footnotes, and first-page formatting. It is perhaps most commonly used for in-text citations and the Bibliography, or Works Cited, section. All papers must have an in line citation and a matching entry on the Work Cited page.

In-text Citation Examples

**Author’s name in text**

- Dover has expressed this concern (118-21).

**Author’s name in reference**

- This concern has been expressed (Dover 118-21).

**Multiple authors of a work**

- This hypothesis (Bradley and Rogers 7) suggested this theory (Sumner, Reichl, and Waugh 23).

**Two locations**

- Williams alludes to this premise (136-39, 145).

**Two works cited**

- (Burns 54; Thomas 327)

**Multivolume works**

- References to volumes and pages (Wilson 2:1-18)
- References to an entire volume (Henderson, vol. 3)
- In text reference to an entire volume. In volume 3, Henderson suggests
Corporate authors

- (United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa 51-63)

Works with no author

When a work has no author, use the work's title or a shortened version of the title when citing it in text. (If abbreviating a title, omit initial articles and begin with the word by which it is alphabetized in the Works Cited list.):

- as stated by the presidential commission (Report 4).
- Online source with numbered paragraphs (Fox, pars. 4-5)

Work Cited Examples

Anthology


Book


Book with Editor

- Editor. Title. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year.

E-mail

- Michael Roth. “New Project Info.” E-mail to Sam Baker. 5 August 2008.

Encyclopedia/Dictionary/Reference Source


Film


Government Publication

Interview


Journal


Lecture


Magazine


Musical Composition


Newspaper


Painting


Radio/TV

- “Name of Episode.” Name of Series. Network. Station, City. Date of Broadcast.

Website


MLA’s two published guides are the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, for high school and undergraduate students, and the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing, for graduate students and professional writers. Please consult the MLA Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing or the Purdue Owl website for clarification; this is a guide, not the gospel.