Quick Guide to MLA Works Cited List and In-Text Citations (MLA 9th Ed.)

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General Guidelines for MLA Works Cited List

Spacing

- Start the Works Cited list on a new page at the end of your paper with the heading Works Cited centered at the top of the page.
- The Works Cited list should be double-spaced throughout.
- Begin *each entry* flush with the left margin and indent subsequent line(s) ½ inch. This is called a hanging indent. Use the hanging indent setting in the paragraph formatting options of Word or Google Docs to do this automatically.

Authors

- Arrange the order of works cited alphabetically by the first element in each citation. This is typically the *last name* (family name) of the first author of the work. Or, if the author is unknown, the first element is the title of the work. The author(s) are the primary creators of the work.
    - **One author:** If there is only one author, list the last name (family name), a comma, and the rest of the name in order. For example, the author Darla M. Castelli would appear as Castelli, Darla M.
    - **Two authors:** If there are two authors, list them in the order they appear in the work, but with the last name (family name) of only the first author reversed. Put a comma and the word *and* between the author names. For example, a works cited entry for authors Darla M. Castelli and David Goss would appear as Castelli, Darla M., and David Goss.

- **Three or more authors:** If there are three or more authors, list the first author followed by a comma and the Latin abbreviation *et al.,* which means "and others." For example, a work by Darla M. Castelli, David Goss, and Jane Scherer would appear on the Works Cited list as Castelli, Darla M., et al.

Titles

- When writing the title of books, chapters, articles, reports, or webpages, use title case capitalization, which capitalizes the *first letter* of most words. Always capitalize the first letter of the first word, the first letter of the first word of the subtitle (after the colon), and the first letter of the last word. Also capitalize the first letter of all main words in the title and subtitle. Follow the same rules when capitalizing the names of publications like journals, magazines, and newspapers.
- If a title ends in a question mark or exclamation point, do not add a period at the end of the title. The question mark or exclamation point takes the place of the period in the citation.
- Add a colon between a title and subtitle.
- If a work does not have a title, write a short description in place of the title. Capitalize only the first word of the description and any proper nouns. Do *not* put quotation marks around the description or italicize it.

Publication Dates and Editions/Versions

- Include the date of publication. For books, this is often the year. Include a more specific date when it is given. For example, an article from a monthly magazine might have a publication date of Mar. 2012, or an article from a daily newspaper or website might have a publication date of 15 Aug. 2021. Give the most specific date listed on the version of the source you are consulting.
- If names of months are more than four letters, use a three-letter abbreviation instead. In your Works Cited list, months should appear as Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.
- When a season is included in a publication date, include the season in the citation in lowercase letters. For example, winter 2017.
- If the publication date of an online work is unknown, or if the work is continuously updated, add the date *you* accessed (looked at) the work to end of the citation. For example: Accessed 19 Nov. 2023.
- If a source is labeled as a particular version or edition, include that information in the citation. Abbreviate revised to Rev. and edition to ed. Some examples include: Expanded ed., Rev. ed., and 2nd ed. Information about the edition goes before the Publisher in the citation.

Page Numbers

- When a citation is for a work contained within another work, such as an article in a newspaper or journal or a chapter in an edited anthology, include the start and end page numbers of the article or chapter. If needed, look at the PDF versions of journal articles and ebooks to see these page numbers. If a work does not have page numbers, do not include them in the citation.
- If the work spans only one page, use the abbreviation p. followed by the page number, for example: p. 5.

- If the work spans multiple pages:
    - For works that span multiple consecutive pages, use the abbreviation pp. followed by the starting and ending page numbers separated by a hyphen. For example, pp. 25-43.
    - For works spanning nonconsecutive pages, use the abbreviation pp. followed by the starting page number and a plus sign. For example, an article that started on page 5 and then skipped to page 10 would be represented as pp. 5+.

DOI (Digital Object Identifier) Links

- Most *scholarly* publishers assign a unique DOI code to each journal article. It is often listed somewhere on the first page of the article. A DOI link will take you to that article's page on the publisher's website. DOI links always show the most up-to-date version of that article.
- Any time an article or book you accessed online has a DOI code, include that DOI *as a link* in the Works Cited entry. Do not include any other link or web address.
- All DOI links start the same way: *https://doi.org/*. To create a DOI link, add the DOI code for your article. For example, if an article has the DOI: 10.1172/JCI0215217, the DOI link in the citation would be https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI0215217. **Include the https:// portion of all DOI links.**
- Looking for a DOI? Copy and paste a citation into the **CrossRef Simple Text Query** to find its DOI. Go to: https://doi.crossref.org/simpleTextQuery.

Database Names, Database Links, and Website Links

- If you read an article or ebook (or watched a film, etc.) from an online library database, include the name of the database platform or company — or, the name of the specific database if you know it — in your Works Cited entry.
- If a work you accessed online does *not* have a DOI, include the URL (web address) for the database or website instead. Look for "permalinks," "bookmark links," or "stable URLs" provided in some databases. Do *not* include the https:// portion at the beginning of the URL (but *do* include the https:// portion on DOI links). Accuracy is more important than appearance; do not worry about uneven line breaks in the URL.
- When in doubt, follow the directions of your instructor. Some instructors may prefer library database links over DOI links or may prefer all links to start with https://.

Journal, Magazine, and Newspaper Articles

Journal Articles

General Format: Authors. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, vol. X, no. X, Publication Date, pp. X-X. *Database Name or Publisher Website Name* if accessed online, DOI link or database URL or website URL if accessed online.

Journal Article *with* DOI – from a library database or publisher website

Conley, Joyce. "A Psychophysical Investigation of Judgments of Complexity in Music." *Psychomusicology*, vol. 1, no. 2, 1981, pp. 59-71. *APA PsycNet*, https://doi.org/10.1037/h0094280.

Journal Article *without* DOI – from a library database or publisher website

Takagi, Chiaki. "Third Space Wonderland and the End of the Modern: Representation of Tokyo in the Works of Murakami Haruki." *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*, vol. 32, 2010, pp. 193-198. *Gale Academic OneFile*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/A293544446/AONE?u=mnanorman&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=20d748a3.

Journal Article – in a print (paper) journal

In the example below, three people wrote the article together. Whenever there are three or more authors, list the first author followed by a comma and the Latin abbreviation et al.

Simmons, William Paul, et al. "Facilitated Communication, Neurodiversity, and Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly*, vol. 43, no. 1, Feb. 2021, pp. 138-167.

Magazine Articles

General Format: Authors. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine*, vol. X, no. X, Publication Date, pp. X-X. *Database Name* if applicable, database URL or website URL if accessed online.

Magazine Article – from a library database

Saey, Tina Hesman. "Hair Grays When Stem Cells Get Stuck." *Science News*, vol. 203, no. 10, June 2023, p. 14. *EBSCOhost Academic Search Premier*, research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=93fffd79-7441-3fbc-9114-b87a6bd45974.

Magazine Article – in a print (paper) magazine

Weber, Larry. "The Log in the Lake." *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer,* vol. 86, no. 511, Nov.-Dec. 2023, pp. 30-35.

Newspaper Articles and Online News Articles

General Format: Authors. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* [City of Publication if needed], Publication Date, pp. X-X. *Database Name* if applicable, database URL or website URL if accessed online.

About the City of Publication: If a local newspaper does not include the city name in the title of the newspaper, include the city name in brackets after the title of the newspaper. You do not need to do this if the newspaper is well known and nationally distributed (e.g., *Wall Street Journal*).

Newspaper Article – from a library database – includes an example of adding the city of publication

Adler, Erin. "Como Zoo's Baby Giraffe Will Be Known as Ivy." *Star Tribune* [Minneapolis], 17 Nov. 2023, p. B2. *ProQuest*, www.proquest.com/newspapers/como-zoos-baby-giraffe-will-be-known-as-ivy/docview/2891005533/se-2?accountid=4885.

Newspaper Article – from a newspaper website or other news website (CNN.com, etc.)

Ho, Catherine, and Dominic Fracassa. "Kaiser and Unions Reach Tentative Deal After Biggest Health Care Strike in U.S. History." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 13 Oct. 2023, www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/kaiser-strike-california-ends-18423949.php.

Newspaper Article – in print (paper) – includes an example of adding the city of publication

Orenstein, Walker. "Utilities Request Gas Rate Hike of 9%." *Star Tribune* [Minneapolis], 2 Nov. 2023, pp. A1+.

Books and eBooks

General Format for Authored Books: Authors. *Title of Book*. Edition if applicable, Publisher, Year. *Database Name or Website Name* if accessed online, database URL or website URL if accessed online.

General Format for a Chapter in an Edited Book or Anthology: Authors. "Title of Chapter." *Title of Book*, edited by Editors, Edition if applicable, Publisher, Year, pp. X-X. *Database Name or Website Name* if accessed online, database URL or website URL if accessed online.

Authored Book – in print (paper)

Gates, Julie M. *Consider the Earth: Environmental Activities for Grades 4-8*. 2nd ed., Libraries Unlimited, 1999.

Authored Ebook – from a library database or website

Olga Griswold, and Jennie L. Watson. *Grammar and Style Choices for College Writers*. Routledge, 2023. *EBSCOhost,* research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=4342fe65-17c9-3b1c-9901-29ea345b0631.

Edited Book, when citing the whole book – in print (paper)

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and John Ehrenreich, editors. *The American Health Empire: Power, Profits, and Politics*. Vintage, 1971.

Edited Ebook, when citing the whole ebook – from a library database or website

Demantowsky, Marko, editor. *Public History and School: International Perspectives*. De Gruyter, 2018. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvbkk2pq.

Chapter in an Edited Book – in print (paper)

Mura, David. "A Surrealist History of One Asian American in Minnesota." *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota,* edited by Sun Yin Shin, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2016, pp. 43-58.

Chapter in an Edited Ebook – from a library database or website

If the ebook has fixed page numbers, such as with a PDF ebook, include the start and end page numbers of the chapter after the Year. If the ebook does not have page numbers, do not include them.

Mura, David. "A Surrealist History of One Asian American in Minnesota." *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota,* edited by Sun Yin Shin, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2016. *Ebooks Minnesota*, mackinvia.com/Reader/Launch?viaId=6932385&bookId=123155361&language=0&position=14512.

Encyclopedia Entries

General Format for Encyclopedia Entries: Author if known. "Title of Entry." *Title of Encyclopedia*, edited by Editors, Edition if applicable, vol. X if applicable, Publisher, Year, pp. X-X. *Database Name* if applicable, database URL or website URL if accessed online.

About the Author: If no author name appears at the beginning or end of the entry, do not include an author. Start the citation with the entry title instead.

Entry – from an encyclopedia in a library database or website

Frey, Rebecca J., and Amy Hackney Blackwell. "Bisphenol A." T*he Gale Encyclopedia of Environmental Health,* edited by Deirdre S. Hiam, 3rd ed., vol. 1, Gale, 2024, pp. 138-141. *Gale eBooks*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX8659400056/GVRL?u=mnanorman&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=baec8820.

Entry – from an encyclopedia in print (paper)

Frey, Rebecca J., and Amy Hackney Blackwell. "Bisphenol A." *The Gale Encyclopedia of Environmental Health*, edited by Deirdre S. Hiam, 3rd ed., vol. 1, Gale, 2024, pp. 138-141.

Websites and Webpages

Not all works accessed online are webpages. Only cite an online work as a webpage if no other citation type fits better. For example, cite an online book as an ebook, and an online report or document from an organization or government body as a report from a group (see the next section about reports).

General Format for Webpages: Author if different than either the Publisher/Organization or Name of the Website. "Title of Webpage." *Name of Website*, Publisher/Organization if different than the Name of Website, Publication Date if known, webpage URL. Accessed Day Month Year if necessary.

When to Include the Author and Publisher/Organization: Avoid repeating the same information in the citation.

- Only include the name of the publisher (usually the group or organization affiliated with or responsible for the site) if it is different than the name of the website.
- If the authors are named individuals, include them. If the author is a division, department, committee, or subgroup of the publisher/organization, include it.
- If the author is the exact same group as the publisher/organization, *or* if the author is the same as the name of the website, skip the Author element and begin the citation with the title of the webpage instead. This is common for webpages on organization or government websites; when no author is listed, you can often assume the author is the organization or government entity itself.
- If the author is not known, skip the Author element and begin with the title of the webpage instead.

When to Include an Access Date: If you do not know the date a website or webpage was created or last updated (or if the page is either continuously updated or no longer online), add the date *you* accessed (looked at) it to the end of the citation. For example: Accessed 19 Nov. 2023.

Specific Webpage Within a Website

Webpage – author(s) are named individuals

Include individual author names when known. In the example below, the name of the website (*MedlinePlus*) is different than the name of the publisher/organization (National Library of Medicine), so both are included.

Henochowicz, Stuart I. "Macrophage." *MedlinePlus*, National Library of Medicine, 17 Apr. 2022, medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002374.htm.

Webpage – author is a division, department, committee, or subgroup of the publisher

In the example below, Emergency Communication Networks is the author of the webpage and is a division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Since Minnesota Department of Public Safety is both the name of the publisher and the name of the website, only the website name is included. The webpage is not dated, so the date accessed is given instead.

Emergency Communication Networks. "Interoperability." Minnesota Department of Public Safety,

dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/networks/interoperability. Accessed 23 Sept. 2025.

Webpage – author is the exact same as either the publisher or the name of the website OR Webpage – author is unknown

When the author is the same as the publisher or the name of the website (or both), skip the Author element and begin the citation with the title of the webpage instead. Do the same if the author is unknown or anonymous.

Example A: In the example below, American Library Association is the name of the author, the publisher, and the website. To avoid repeating the same name, only the name of the website is given.

"FAQ: Executive Order Targeting IMLS." *American Library Association*, 11 Sept. 2025, www.ala.org/faq-

executive-order-targeting-imls.

Example B: In the example below, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the name of both the author and the publisher. To avoid repeating the same name, only the publisher is given. The name of the website is EatRight.org. The webpage is not dated, so the date accessed is given instead.

"About the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics." *EatRight.org*, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics,

www.eatright.org/about-the-academy. Accessed 14 Sept. 2025.

Entire Website

General Format for Entire Websites: Author if different than the Publisher/Organization or Name of the Website. *Name of Website*, Publisher/Organization if different than the Name of Website, Publication Date if known, website home page URL. Accessed Day Month Year if necessary.

When to Include the Author and Publisher/Organization: Only include the name of the author or the name of the publisher if it is different than the name of the website.

Example A: In the example below, no publisher is listed because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the name of both the website and the publisher.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov. Accessed 12 Jan. 2024.

Example B: In the example below, the name of the website and the name of the publisher are different, so both are given.

Folgerpedia. Folger Shakespeare Library, 21 July 2020, folgerpedia.folger.edu/Main_Page.

Reports from Groups (Organizations or Government Entities)

Use this section to cite reports or documents created by groups. Online reports are often, but not always, PDF files with a URL that ends in .pdf.

The following guidelines apply when the author is a group (corporation, organization, or government body) or when the work of individual authors is sponsored by or represents the group:

- Treat government reports like any other report from a group and record the government name as you find it in the source.
- Avoid repeating the same group name in the citation.
    - If the group is both the author and the publisher, skip the Author element and begin the citation with the title of the work. Exception: Include the Author element if the author is a division, committee, or other subgroup of the organization.
    - If you accessed the report online, include the *Name of the Website* and the website URL. If the *Name of the Website* and the Publisher are the same, do not include the Publisher element and only include the *Name of the Website* and website URL.
- Only invert the name of the first individual author of a group report, such as "Jackson, Rebecca." If the *group* is the Author, do not invert the name. For example, if the author is the United Nations, use "United Nations," *not* "Nations, United."

General Format for Reports from Groups: Author if different than Publisher/Organization. *Title of Report.* Edition if applicable, Publisher/Organization if different from Name of Website, Year. *Name of Database or Website* if applicable, database URL or website URL if accessed online.

Group Report – author(s) are named individuals

Head, Alison J., et al. *Information Literacy in the Age of Algorithms: Student Experiences with News and Information, and the Need for Change.* Project Information Literacy, 2020. *ERIC*, files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED605109.pdf.

Group Report – author is a division, department, committee, or subgroup of the publisher

In the example below, the report was viewed in print (paper). If you access the report online, the name of the website will determine if the publisher appears in the citation.

Research Planning and Review Committee. *2023 Environmental Scan.* Association of College & Research Libraries, 2023.

Group Report – author and publisher are the exact same entity, website name is different

When the author and the publisher are the exact same group, do not include the Author element. Start with the report title. In the following example, the Publisher/Organization and the *Name of Website* are different from each other, so both are given. (The URL breaks across two lines, which is fine.)

Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 2018. *EatRight.org*, www.eatright.org/-media/files/eatright/coeforthenutritionanddieteticsprofession.pdf.

Group Report – publisher and website name are the same, author name is different

For reports available online, if the publisher/organization and the website have the same name, do not include the Publisher element in the citation.

Office of Water. *Hydrant Sampler Procedure*. 2023. *United States Environmental Protection Agency*, nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P10194C4.PDF?Dockey=P10194C4.PDF.

Group Report – author, publisher, and website names are all the same

If the author, publisher, and website names are all the same, include only the website name.

Thrive MSP 2040: One Vision, One Metropolitan Region. 2014. *Metropolitan Council*, metrocouncil.org/Planning/Publications-And-Resources/Thrive-MSP-2040-Plan-(1)/ThriveMSP2040.aspx.

Audio, Video, and Image Sources

Television & Video

General Format for an Episode from a Series: "Name of Episode." *Name of Series*, created by Creators, season X, episode X, Production Company or Distributor if different than Name of Website or App or Database, Date episode created or released. *Name of Website or App or Database,* database URL or website URL if applicable.

General Format for a Standalone Video (Feature Film, Non-series Documentary, etc.): *Title of Video.* Directed by Director, Production Company or Distributor if different than Name of Website or App or Database, Date created or released. *Name of Website or App or Database,* database URL or website URL if applicable.

General Format for a Video Uploaded to a Sharing Website: Author or Creator if known. "Title of Video." *Name of Video Sharing Website*, uploaded by Name of Account, Upload Date, website URL.

Episode from a Series – viewed from a library database or website

"Lemons." *Black-ish*, created by Kenya Barris, season 3, episode 12, Khalabo Ink Society / ABC Studios, 2017. *Hulu*, www.hulu.com.

Episode from a Series – viewed from an app

"Lemons." *Black-ish*, created by Kenya Barris, season 3, episode 12, Khalabo Ink Society / ABC Studios, 2017. *Hulu* app.

Standalone Video (Feature Film, Non-series Documentary, etc.) – viewed on a library database or website

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin. Directed by Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer, Question Why Films / California Newsreel, 2002. *Films on Demand*, fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=100853&xtid=57866.

Video – uploaded to a sharing site

Jay Smooth. "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Discussing Race." *YouTube*, uploaded by TEDx Talks, 15 Nov. 2011, www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbdxeFcQtaU.

Podcasts

General Format for a Podcast Episode: **"**Name of Episode." *Name of Podcast*, hosted by Hosts, season X, episode X, Production Company or Distributor if different than Name of Website or App, Date episode released. *Name of Website or App,* website URL if applicable.

Podcast Episode – listened on a website

"Big Girls Don't Cry." *Snap Judgment*, hosted by Glynn Washington, season 14, episode 51, PRX, 19 Oct. 2021. *SoundCloud*, soundcloud.com/snapjudgment/listen-to-the-entire-snap-judgment-episode-big-girls-dont-cry.

Podcast Episode – listened on an app

"Vanity Plate." *Mystery Show,* hosted by Starlee Kine, season 1, episode 4, Gimlet Media, 12 June 2015. *Spotify* app.

Images

In general, most images, charts, tables, and other graphical elements contained in a work can be cited just by citing the work as a whole. But, if you are viewing an image separately or if you want to acknowledge the creator of an image reproduced in a book, you can follow these guidelines.

General Format for Images Viewed Online: Creators of Image. *Title of Image.* Date of Creation. *Database Name or Website Name*, database URL or website URL.

General Format for Images Reproduced in a Book or Ebook: Creators of Image. *Title of Image.* Date of Creation, Publisher or Provider of the image. *Title of Book*, by Book Authors, Book Publisher, Book Publication Year, p. X. *Database Name or Website Name* if accessed online, database URL or website URL if accessed online.

About the Title of Image: If the image does not have a title, provide a short description in plain text. See the Titles section of the guidelines on page 2 for more information.

Image – viewed online in a database or website

Baumann, Gustave. *Bright Angel Trail*. 1919. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/community.14911071.

Image – reproduced in a book (such as a photographic reproduction of a painting)

In the example below, the book was viewed in print (paper). If it was viewed online, end the citation with: *Database Name or Website Name*, database URL or website URL.

Velázquez, Diego. *An Old Woman Cooking Eggs.* Circa 1618, Scottish National Gallery. *The Vanishing Velázquez: A Nineteenth-Century Bookseller's Obsession with a Lost Masterpiece,* by Laura Cumming, Scribner, 2016, p. 27.

Unpublished Interviews, E-mails, and Other Personal Communications

For an interview, list the person answering the interview questions in the Author element. An interview is assumed to be in person unless otherwise described (e.g., Telephone interview).

General Format for an Unpublished Interview: Interviewee. Interview. Conducted by the author or Interviewer, Date of interview.

General Format for an Unpublished E-mail: Sender. E-mail to the author or Recipient. Date sent.

Other Personal Communications: Other personal communications follow a similar format to e-mails. Identify the author, the type of communication and recipient, and the date.

Unpublished Interview – when you are the interviewer

Perry, Bruce. Interview with the author. 18 Jan. 2024.

Unpublished Interview – when you are *not* the interviewer

Pun, Jessica. Video interview. Conducted by Jason Ford. 2 Feb. 2023.

Unpublished E-mail – when you are the recipient

McCutcheon, James. E-mail to the author. 26 May 2022.

In-Text Citations

Your Works Cited is a list of all the sources you mention in your paper. These mentions happen with in-text citations. The purpose of in-text citations is to a) properly credit the ideas and words of others, b) point your reader to the corresponding full citation in your Works Cited, and c) tell your reader where specifically to look in those sources. All in-text mentions of sources must unambiguously lead the reader to the correct Works Cited entry. Therefore, the exact information you include in in-text citations may vary depending on the other sources in your Works Cited list.

Basics of In-Text Citations

You should cite a source in the text of your paper whenever you quote the source directly or summarize or paraphrase ideas from the source.

1. You will reference whatever information comes first in the Works Cited entry. This is usually the author's last name or — if no author is listed — a short portion of the title (or description) of the work.
2. For direct quotations *and* paraphrases from a specific part of the work, you will also include the page number where the quotation or paraphrased information can be found in the source.

You can put an in-text citation in parentheses at the end of your sentence, or you can incorporate the author's last name (or title of the work, if there is no author) into your sentence and place only the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence. You can choose which option you use in each sentence.

Option 1: Parenthetical Citation — Entire Citation in Parentheses	Option 2: Narrative Citation — Author Name Is Part of Your Sentence
Example: Recent research finds that people are more likely to believe political misinformation that uses fake statistics (Hameleers 122).	**Example:** Recent research by Hameleers finds that people are more likely to believe political misinformation that uses fake statistics (122).

More About Page Numbers in In-Text Citations

Include page numbers whenever you directly quote or paraphrase from a specific part of a work. If a quotation starts on one page and continues to another, include the entire span, such as (Nguyen 15-16).

If a Work Has No Page Numbers

- If available, look at the PDF versions of journal articles and ebooks to see page numbers.
- If the work has numbered chapters or sections, cite those instead preceded by a comma. For example, (Silko, ch. 2) or (Becher, sec. 4).
- If it is a multimedia source, like a video or audio clip, use a timestamp instead. Give the time span of the portion you are citing in hours, minutes, and seconds as digits separated by colons. For example, 00:34:05-58 cites from 34 minutes 5 seconds to 34 minute 58 seconds in a video.
- If a work does not have page numbers, chapters, sections, or other divisions, do *not* apply your own page numbering or count paragraphs. Instead, do not include any number in the in-text citation.
- If a work has no page numbers or other location markers, and the author's name is part of your sentence, you do not need any parentheses at the end of the sentence.

When *Not* to Include Page Numbers

There are two instances when you do not include page numbers in an in-text citation, even if the work has page numbers or other location markers.

- If your use of an author's ideas *cannot* be traced to a specific place in the work —such as summarizing the thesis of the entire work — do not include a page number.

  Parenthetical Example: Internet use is changing the way we read and process information (Carr).

  Narrative Example: Carr argues that Internet use is changing the way we read and process information.

- If the work is only one page long, do not give the page number in your in-text citation.

More About Authors in In-Text Citations

When to Include First Names

If you include the author's name in your sentence (narrative citation), give the author's first *and* last name the *first time* you mention them. After that, use the last name only. Parenthetical citations, which go at the end of the sentence in parentheses, *only* include last names.

Two Authors

Include both authors' last names in your narrative citations and parenthetical citations. Connect the two names with the word *and.*

Parenthetical Example: Economic changes over time have decreased the effectiveness of labor strikes (King and Jasper 95).

Narrative Example: King and Jasper suggest that labor strikes have become less effective over time due to economic changes (95).

Three Or More Authors

If you use a parenthetical citation — with the entire citation at the end of your sentence — use the author name as it appears in your Works Cited list including the *et al.* abbreviation:

Parenthetical Example: Research suggests that gratitude journaling can help nursing students manage stress (Ko et al. 11).

If you refer to the authors as part of your sentence, you have two options:

- Narrative citation for three or more authors — Option 1: Give the name of the first author and refer to the coauthors using phrases such as "and others" or "and colleagues."

  Narrative Option 1 Example: A study by Ko and colleagues suggests that gratitude journaling can help nursing students manage stress (11).

- Narrative citation for three or more authors — Option 2: List all the names of the coauthors.

  Narrative Option 2 Example: A study by Ko, Kim, and Kim suggests that gratitude journaling can help nursing students manage stress (11).

Group Author

If the author is an organization, government entity, or other group, and you cite the group name as part of your sentence, include the entire group name.

When you refer to a group author in a *parenthetical* citation at the end of your sentence, shorten the group name to the shortest noun phrase. This means shortening to the first noun and any adjectives that come *before* it in the group name.

For example, the group *American Library Association* does *not* need to be shortened; it is already in its shortest form. The noun, *Association*, is preceded by two adjectives, *American* and *Library*. But the group *Association of College and Research Libraries* would be shortened to *Association*. *Association* is the first noun in the name, and there are no preceding adjectives.

No Author

When no author appears in a Works Cited entry, refer instead to the first element that does appear. This is usually the title of the work. See the instructions below on using titles in in-text citations.

How to Use Titles in In-Text Citations (When No Author Known)

When an entry in the Works Cited list begins with the title, you will use the title in the in-text citation. Format titles in your in-text citations the same way they are formatted in the Works Cited entry using italics or quotation marks as indicated.

Titles in Narrative Citations

For narrative citations, you can include the entire title or include only the main title in your sentence. For example, the report *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America* might appear in your sentence as *Reading at Risk*.

Titles in Parenthetical Citations

When a title appears in a parenthetical citation, you will probably need to shorten it. Shorten the title to only the first noun or noun phrase. This means including the first noun and any adjectives that come before that noun in the title. Do not include any initial article (*a*, *an*, or *the*) that starts the title. If the title does *not* begin with a noun phrase, shorten the title to the first punctuation mark or the first phrase or clause. See examples in the table below.

Full Title from the *Beginning* of the Works Cited Entry	Shortened Title in the Parenthetical In-Text Citation
Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America	(*Reading*)
Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity: A Framework	(*Cultural Proficiencies*)
"How to Avoid Homework Procrastination"	("How to Avoid")
"So Much Happiness"	("So Much Happiness")

Remember, each in-text citation must contain enough information to unambiguously lead the reader to the correct Works Cited entry.

Need Help?

Have a question about MLA style? Stop by the Normandale Library to consult with a librarian, or connect with a librarian online through our 24/7 chat service: https://normandale.edu/library.

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Created by Lacey Mamak, Library faculty at Normandale Community College. This guide is derived, in part, from work by Tessa Withorn and Jillian Holt Eslami at California State University – Dominguez Hills and from work by the librarians at City College of San Francisco. Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.