**MLA Citation Style**

From the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 8th ed., 2016.

**FORMATTING: GENERAL GUIDELINES AND THE FIRST PAGE OF YOUR PAPER**

* Type your paper on a computer and print it on standard white 8.5 x 11- inch paper.
* Double-space the text -- use a clear legible font. Ex. Times Roman. Font size: 12 pt.
* Margins: 1 inch on all sides.
* Indent the first line of each paragraph, one tab from the left margin.
* Leave only one space after a period and other punctuation marks unless directed otherwise by your instructor.
* Create a header that numbers ALL the pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. After the header, double space and in the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor’s name, the course, and the date. Use double-spaced text. Double space again and center the title. Type your title, but do not use all capital letters. Double space again. And on the left margin, indent and begin your essay.
* Use italics for titles in your essay.

**Works Cited Page: Basics**

* Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and page number header as the rest of your paper.
* Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
* Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
* Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.

**In-Text Citations: Basics**

* MLA uses short parenthetical citations in the text of the paper to acknowledge sources of information. The parenthetical citation information will match the source information on the Works Cited page.
* The parenthetical usually includes the author’s last name (if there is no author of the work, the first one or two words of the title, (but do not use A, An, or The, if they are the first words of the title), and the page number where the information was found.
* Leave the author’s name out of the parenthetical if it is clearly stated in your sentence.
* When the Works Cited page includes more than one work by an author, the parenthetical should include part of the title, i.e., (Smith *Leadership* 336) and (Smith *Management* 246).
* If an entire work is being acknowledged, or there is no page or paragraph number (as is the case for many online sources), include the article title in the citation.
* MLA does not use a comma between the name and page number.

**You should always provide parenthetical citations for the following:**

* direct quotes
* summarized material
* words, ideas, or theories specific to the author
* articles or studies you refer to in your text

**Type of Entry Works Cited Page Citation in Text**

Book: single author Smith, Jane. *Leadership and Women.* (Smith 336)

Free Press, 1996.

**Format:** Last Name, First Name (of author). Title of Book. Publisher, Publication Date.

Book: more than one Hill, Mike and Susan Hall. *Woman in the Car.* (Hill and Hall 15)

author Yale Press, 1986.

Anthology or collection Snow, Ann, editor. *The Early Americans*. (Snow 378)

Free Press, 1986.

Author Unknown *Encyclopedia of Art*. New York, 2007. (Encyclopedia of Art 124)

Poem or Short Story Burns, Robert. “Red, Red Rose.” *100 Best-Loved* (Burns 26)

*Poems*. Edited by Philip Smith. Dover Publishing,

1995, pp. 26-27.

**Format:** Last name, First name (of author). "Title of Short Story/Poem." Title of Collection,

edited by (Editor's Name as First Name, Last Name), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

Newspaper article “Mardi Gras, Again.” *Mobile Press Register* (“Mardi” A5)

(unsigned) 28 Feb. 2007, p. A5.

Magazine article Jones, Wesley. “I’d Rather Travel.” *Time,* (Jones 70)

26 June 1998, pp. 70-72.

**Format:** Last Name, First Name (of author). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical, Day Month Year (or Vol. 1,

Issue 2), pages (single page is p. and multiple pages pp.).

Online article Mark, Joshua J . “Mesopotamia.” Ancient History (Mark, “Mesopotamia”)

Encyclopedia, 2 September 2009,

www.ancient.eu. 16 May 2016.

**Format:** Last Name, First Name (of author). “Title.” Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs- shown as par., and/or URL, DOI or permalink). Date of Access.

**Examples of Parenthetical Citations: MLA style**

**Type of citation** **Example**

Author’s name in text Jones states that the case is closed (68).

Author’s name in citation The report has been changed and cannot be trusted (Jones 69).

Two authors’ names in citation Children have the right to a great education (Jones and Smith 145).

Two locations in same source Huff discusses the plan briefly (69, 72).

Two sources cited Several voices have been heard on this subject (Clarke 56; Smith 63)

Electronic source (with paragraph numbers) “Mesopotamia was a collection of varied cultures” (Mark, par. 2).

No author: use the first words of title The wheel was invented in Mesopotamia (“Mesopotamia”, par. 3).

Encyclopedia or Dictionary article Most plovers nest in open areas (“Birds”).