

Citing Sources Using MLA Style

Include citations in all research papers. Citations show how your paper ties into other scholarly research and allows you to recognize other scholars for their contribution to the ideas in your paper. They give your paper a sense of legitimacy and originality because you are showing the reader your thought process.

MLA papers are usually double-spaced with 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins all around. Page numbers follow your last name and are located in the top right corner of the header. Unless instructed otherwise, number all pages including the Works Cited page. Your name, your professor's name, the class name/number, and the date are double-spaced in the upper left corner of your document. The date should be in day month year order with no commas in between. The title is centered immediately under the identifying information listed in the previous sentence. Do not italicize, underline, bold, or use a different size or style of font for the title.

When it comes to formatting your paper, using citations and documentation, you should always follow your professor's instructions. However, there are some instances that are typically formatted the same across the board. If you are unsure whether something should be cited or not, it is always best to over-cite than under-cite.

Citing Books

In-text Citation Format:	(Author's Last Name Page #)
Example:	The narrator begins the book by saying "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife" (Austen 1).
Works Cited Format:	Last Name, First Name. <i>Title of Book</i> . Publisher, Year of Publication.
Example:	Austen, Jane. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> . Puffin Books, 1995.
E-book:	Last name, First name. <i>Title of Book</i> . Publisher, Year of Publication. <i>Online Publisher</i> . Digital Location.
Example:	Gikandi, Simon. <i>Ngugi wa Thiong'o</i> . Cambridge UP, 2000. <i>ACLS Humanities E-Book</i> , hdl.handle.net/2027/heb.07588.0001.001.

Citing Journal Articles

In-text Citation Format:	(Author's Last Name Page #)
Example:	The author states that " <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> shows how even in a flawed system it is possible to make the best of one's situation" (Emsley 493).
Works Cited Format, Print Journal:	Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i> , Volume #, Issue #, Year of Publication, pp. Page #s.

Example:	Emsley, Sarah. "Radical Marriage." <i>Eighteenth-Century Fiction</i> , vol. 11, no. 4, 1999, pp. 477-498.
Works Cited Format, Online Database:	Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i> Volume #, Issue #, Year of Publication. <i>Database Name</i> , URL or DOI
Example:	Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." <i>Postmodern Culture</i> , vol. 10, no. 3, May 2000. <i>Project Muse</i> . doi: 10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

Citing a Webpage

Be sure that you are citing a reliable source, when using a website. Typically, websites ending in .org, .gov, or .edu are usually the most reliable.

In-text Citation Format:	(Author's Last Name) If the author's name is unavailable, use ("Title of Page").
Example:	Jane Austen had "the first draft completed sometime in 1799" (Alex).
Works Cited Format:	Last Name, First Name. "Title of Page." <i>Title of Website</i> . Date of Publication. URL. If the author's name is unavailable, begin your citation with the title of the page: "Title of Page." <i>Title of Website</i> . Date of Publication. URL.
Example:	Alex, Dan. "Jane Austen Biography." <i>Jane Austen</i> . 2013. JaneAusten.org

Citing an Entire Website

In-text Citation Format:	(Author's Last Name) The author may be the organization, editor, or compiler of the website. If the author's name is unavailable, use (<i>Title of Website</i>)
Example:	McDonald's was established in 1955 and has since established multiple locations across the globe (McDonald's Corp).
Works Cited Format:	Last Name, First Name. <i>Title of Website</i> . Date of publication/creation. URL. If the author/organization/ compiler's name is unavailable, begin your citation with the title of the site: <i>Title of Website</i> . Publisher. Date of Publication. Web. Date of Access.
Example:	McDonald's Corp. <i>McDonald's</i> . 2015. McDonald's.com

Citing a YouTube video

In-text Citation Format:	(Author's or Poster's Last Name)
Example:	Kid President encourages people to embrace each day (SoulPancake).
Works Cited Format:	"Title of video." <i>Name of Website</i> , uploaded by Author's full name, Date posted URL.
Example:	"A Pep Talk from Kid President to You." <i>YouTube</i> , uploaded by SoulPancake, 24 Jan. 2013. www.youtube.com