

MLA STYLE

The Modern Language Association (MLA) publishes a citation style used primarily by Humanities disciplines for documenting sources.

Why do we cite?

- To give credit to others for their ideas, words, and images
- To lend credibility to our arguments
- To connect our ideas to other writers' ideas in our field
- To provide readers with sources that they can use for their own projects

When do we cite?

- When we quote other writers' words
- When we paraphrase (i.e., using our own words to explain someone else's ideas)
- When we use another writers' tables, graphs, or images

What do I do if the information I need is not contained in this packet?

- Work with a Writing Center consultant or the Librarian
- Check the *MLA Handbook*, 8th Edition
- Visit the *Purdue OWL* website

Where in the paper do I put my citations?

- You need to cite your sources both inside of your text and in a Works Cited page located at the end of your paper.

WVC at Omak Library

Mon - Thurs 7:30am - 8pm

Friday 9am - 3pm

509.422.7830

Librarian, Tria Skirko

509.422.7832

tskirko@wvc.edu

WVC at Omak Write Lab

509-422.7845

24/7 Ask a Librarian

Available at the library home page. Under the help tab.

<https://commons.wvc.edu/library/mainpage/Home.aspx>

Online Tutoring/Writing Center

Available at the library home page. Under the Services tab.

<https://commons.wvc.edu/library/mainpage/Home.aspx>

OWL at Purdue Online Write Lab

Select MLA Guide under Suggested Resources.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

In-Text Citations

One Author (author's name is not given in the sentence):

When you quote or paraphrase, include the author's name and the page number where the quote/paraphrase appears in the original text. This information is placed in parentheses.

- One of the paradoxes of democracy is that “individual freedom is possible when there is discipline regulated by the society” (Doe 23).
- One of the paradoxes of democracy is that each person can only be completely free if the larger culture sets up rules to protect that liberty (Doe 23).

One Author (author's name given in the sentence):

If you write the author's name before the quotation or paraphrase, you only need to write the page number in parentheses. Below is an example.

- According to John Doe, one of the paradoxes of democracy is that “individual freedom is possible when there is discipline regulated by the society” (23).

Two or Three Authors:

- (Doe, Smith, and Williams 23)

Three or More Authors:

- (Doe et al. 23)

Multiple Texts by the Same Author:

Add the title of the work between the author's name and the page number. Below is an example.

- (Doe, Policy 23)

No Author Listed:

Give the title of the work, shortened or in full. Note that using a source with “no author” can raise a credibility issue.

- (“Green Day” 12)

Electronic and Other Nonprint Sources without Page Numbers:

You do not need to include the paragraph or section number. Below are two examples.

- (Doe)
- (“Myth of Poverty”)

Quoting from Another Source:

- John Johnson wrote that individual freedom “should not take precedence over social welfare” (qtd. in Doe 4).

Works Cited Entries

MLA directs writers to the “core elements” and provides examples for commonly cited source types and mediums (20-21). Core elements are numbered above the citation in the examples below for emphasis only.

Below is a list of the Core Elements in their needed order:

1. Author
2. Title of source
3. Title of container (e.g. journal, newspaper, magazine, television series, or website)
4. Other contributors
5. Version
6. Number
7. Publisher
8. Publication date
9. Location

Below are numbered examples of a citation for a book, an article, and a web page (please note that these *are only numbered for the example*, and you would not number these on your Works Cited page):

Book:

1	2	7	8
Jacobs, Alan. <i>The Pleasures of Reading in the Age of Distraction</i> . Oxford, UP, 2011.			

Article:

1	2	3	
Baron, Naomi S. “Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media.” <i>PMLA</i> ,			
5	6	8	9
vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.			

Web Page:

1	2	3
Clancy, Kate. “Defensive Scholarly Writing and Science Communication.” <i>Context and Variation</i> ,		
7	8	9
Scientific American Blogs, 24 Apr. 2013, blogs.scientificamerican.com/context-and-variation/2013/04/24/defensive-scholarly-writing-and-science-communication/ .		

See the next page for an example of what these citations would look like in your Works Cited page.

Works Cited Page

Works Cited

- Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.
- Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." Received by Daniel J. Cahill, 21 June 1997.
- Clancy, Kate. "Defensive Scholarly Writing and Science Communication." *Context and Variation*, Scientific American Blogs, 24 Apr. 2013, blogs.scientificamerican.com/context-and-variation/2013/04/24/defensive-scholarly-writing-and-science-communication/.
- Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in the Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2011.
- @persiankiwi. "We have report of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now- #Iranelection." *Twitter*, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., [twitter/come/persiankiwi/status/2298106072](https://twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072).
- "Under the Gun." *Pretty Little Liars*, season 4, episode 6, ABC Family, 16 July 2013. *Hulu*, www.hulu.com/watch511318.
- United Nations. *Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries*. Taylor and Francis, 1991.