

MLA In-Text Citations and Works Cited Page

For all in-text citations (including summaries, paraphrases, and direct quotations), MLA format requires the author's last name and the page number on which the information is found. If the source does not list an author, place an abbreviated version of the book title (italicized) or article name (in quotation marks) in the parenthetical citation. If the name of the author is mentioned in the text of the paper, then give only a page number in the parenthetical citation.

Note the following examples:

Direct quotation where the author's name is mentioned in the text:

Haskell claims that this is “a lie so deeply ingrained in our social behavior that merely to recognize it is to risk unraveling the entire fabric of civilization” (1).

Direct quotation where the author's name is not mentioned in the text:

One review referred to the content of the book as “short on militant rhetoric and long on wise, constructive insight” (Samudio 517).

A paraphrase or summary where the author's name is mentioned:

According to Haskell, censorship regulations had a beneficial impact on women in Hollywood (30).

A paraphrase or summary where the author's name is not mentioned:

The author simply says that as long as Hollywood is monetarily driven, it will continue to be motivated by fear (Russo 326).

A parenthetical citation from an article without an author:

Disagreements on the effects of outsourcing American products and labor continue to raise national concerns (“Outsourcing Effects”).

A parenthetical citation from a source (often internet) with paragraphs numbered:

Melanoma is not the most common form of skin cancer, but left untreated it causes the most deaths (“What is Melanoma” par. 2).

Block Quotes

If a direct quotation is more than four lines long (or more than three lines of poetic verse), it needs to be formatted as a block quote. Block quotes have no quotation marks and start on a new line of text. All lines should be indented ½ inch to the right. The parenthetical citation remains at the end of the quote after the ending punctuation.

Note the following examples.

A block quote with more than four lines of text:

...one study provided by Nicholson and his associates finds the average drug user surveyed was:

well educated, employed full-time, voted regularly, participated in non- drug recreational and community activities, and described their physical health status as good. Their mental well-being was similar to the general U.S. adult population as a whole [. . .] especially relevant to this discussion, their consumption of drugs was generally mild to moderate [. . .] (305)

A block quote with more than three lines of prose:

Book two of the Iliad begins with the lines:

The gods slept soundly that night,
And the men, by their warhorses.
But Zeus lay awake in the dark,
Thinking of how to honor Achilles
And destroy Greeks by the shipload. (Lombardo 20)

MLA Works Cited Page

Whenever in-text citations are included in an academic essay, writers should make sure to include a Works Cited page, which should list all the research (also known as sources) used to develop that particular essay. More specifically, any time a writer quotes from a source, paraphrases from a source, and/or summarizes a source, they must include those sources on their Works Cited page. When deciding whether to list a source as consulted research, writers should ask themselves two questions:

- 1) Did I know this information before I researched for this essay?
- 2) Is this information common knowledge that most of the general public would already know?

If the answer is no for either of these questions, a writer should include the source on their Works Cited page as well as double-check that they included proper in-text citations in their essay. All sources listed on this page should also be alphabetized.

Once a writer knows their sources, they will then need to follow the MLA 8 guidelines to properly cite their sources using the following core elements:

- Author.
- Title of source. (or Title of the Article)*
- Title of container*, (when part of a larger whole, i.e. anthology or database)
- Other contributors, (directed by, translated by, edited by)
- Version, (or edition)
- Number, (volume and issue)
- Publisher,
- Publication date,
- Location. (page number, URL, or physical location of source)

To see more examples of how to cite different types of sources, see the MCC-Longview Library's MLA 8th Edition Reference Guide handout in the Studio.

The next page includes a sample Works Cited page.

Writer's Last Name Page #

Works Cited

Burton, Neel. "The Psychology of Embarrassment, Shame, and Guilt," *Psychology Today*,
Sussex Publishers, 26 Aug. 2014.

Oschema, Klaus. "Blood-Brothers: A Ritual of Friendship and the Construction of the Imagined
Barbarian in the Middle Ages." *Journal of Medieval History*, vol. 32, no. 3, 2006, pp.
275-301.

Parker, Oliver, director. *Othello*. Warner Bros, 1995.

Shakespeare, William. *Othello*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2004.