

Guidelines for Citing Sources (MLA Style)

This is a general guide based on two main sources: [MLA Style Center](#) & the [Purdue OWL \(Online Writing Lab\) MLA guide](#). Also see this [full MLA Works Cited guide](#) developed by Mr. Rusich. If you have questions about specific citations, reach out to your librarian or consult these authoritative sources.

In-text citations

With MLA style, you must use parenthetical citations when you refer to the works of others in your text. These are called in-text citations. Whenever you use a quote or paraphrase, include the author and page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence (just before the period).

If you are only referring to one work throughout, you may leave out the author's name and only use page numbers. If you use the author's name in the sentence, you do not need to include it in the parentheses.

Punctuation is tricky; notice where the periods, commas and question marks are in these different examples. The quotation mark closes the quote. The ending punctuation comes after the in-text citation.

According to some, dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.

According to Foulkes's study, dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (184).

Is it possible that dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184)?

More help with In-text citations

- [Purdue OWL: Basics for in-text citations](#)
- [Purdue OWL: Formatting quotations](#)
- [FAQs from the MLA Style Center re: in-text citations](#)
- [MLA Style Center: Sample papers](#)

Citing images in slideshows & presentations

According to MLA style, you should cite images in the caption beneath the image. Use an in-text citation format. Also put the URL in the speaker notes on that slide. You do not need to include sources only used for images in your Works Cited List.

If you'd like to see an [example of citing images in a slideshow](#), see [this example](#).

Works Cited page (Note, please look at sample Works Cited page below.)

According to MLA style, you must have a Works Cited page at the end of your research paper. All entries in the Works Cited page must correspond to the works cited in your main text. If you'd like to refer to Slides by Ms. Scheuer taking you through these steps, see this [link](#).

Set up your Works Cited page

- **Use a separate page** at the end of your research paper for your Works Cited.
- **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.
- Set **double space, 12 pt** font. Don't skip a line between entries.
- Use a **hanging indent**. See demo in this [short video](#).
- **List entries alphabetically** by author's last name. If no author name, use the first word of the title to organize in alphabetical order.
- **Punctuation matters**. Follow the examples to see where you put commas & periods.

Write a citation for each source used

The MLA handbook shows you the basic principles to guide citations, instead of setting out prescriptive practices. A writer needs to note primary elements in every source and then organize them following this standard format. See sample Works Cited on the following page.

Basic book or play format:
Author Last, First Name. <i>Title of Book</i> . Original Publication Date, Publisher, Publication Date.
Basic online article format:
Author Last, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Container</i> , Publisher or sponsoring organization, Publication Date, URL. Date of Access (only if needed).
Basic journal article format:
Author Last, First Name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i> , Volume, Issue, Year, Pages or URL. Date of Access.
Basic interview format:
Interviewee Last, First Name. Personal interview. Date.

Creating your own Works Cited list: My best advice is this: copy the correct example above. Paste it into your Works Cited list. Then replace each item with the relevant information for your source. Make sure to keep the correct punctuation and formatting.

Item	Explanation or details
Author	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Name, First Name. • Capitalize all names • Leave blank if no author is listed • If 2 authors, write in order listed in book. Second author is in normal order. • If 3+ authors, write et al. after first author
Title of Book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalize each main word (not prepositions, conjunctions, articles) • Put title of book in italics • Plays are cited the same way as a book
Title of Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put quotation marks around shorter works (articles, episodes, chapters) • Capitalize each main word • Include subtitle if it's important for understanding the title
Title of Container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The container is where the material that you are looking for is housed. • If the source is part of a larger work, it is important to show the larger work that holds the source. (more info on containers) • Put titles of containers in italics, because they are larger works. • Examples of containers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website name (<i>Purdue Online Writing Lab</i>) ○ Newspaper title (<i>New York Times</i>) ○ Academic journal (<i>Journal of Biochemistry</i>)
Publisher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for the copyright information at the bottom of websites or back of the title page. • For websites, leave this out if it is the same as the name of the website. We often leave out publisher (look at New York Times example below). • The current MLA format does not include location. Previous formats did.

Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write out date in traditional format: May 28, 2020. • If the work clearly states the publication date, include this. • If there is no publication date, include the date of access.
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More help with citations in Works Cited pages

- [Purdue OWL: MLA Works Cited Page: Basic format](#)
- [Purdue OWL: MLA Works Cited: Other common sources](#)
- [Ask the MLA: search the database of FAQs](#)
- [MLA Style Center: Sample papers](#)

Works Cited page (Note, please look at sample Works Cited page below.)

Works Cited (sample)

"Feminism." Britannica School, Encyclopædia Britannica, 16 Dec. 2019.

[school.eb.com/levels/high/article/feminism/343946#342012.toc](https://www.britannica.com/levels/high/article/feminism/343946#342012.toc).

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

Mehta, Jal, and Sarah Fine. "High School Doesn't Have to Be Boring." *New York Times*, March 30, 2019. www.nytimes.com/2019/03/30/opinion/sunday/fix-high-school-education.html.

"MLA Formatting and Style Guide." *Purdue Online Writing Lab*, owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html. Accessed May 17, 2020.

MLA Style Center, Modern Language Association of America, style.mla.org/. Accessed May 17, 2020.

Pearson, David, and Tony Craig. "The Great Outdoors? Exploring the Mental Health Benefits of Natural Environments." *Frontiers in Psychology*. October 21, 2014. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4204431/>.

Placzek, Cecilia. Personal interview. May 20, 2021.

Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*. 1594, Penguin Books, 1994.

Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*. 1937, Penguin Books, 1994.