MLA style sheet

We recommend that you use this style sheet in conjunction with your School's style guide and the guidance available via Cite Them Right Online. For general help with referencing see the Academic Skills Kit.

You'll find further information on using MLA in the MLA Handbook and via the MLA style center.

MLA 9th style rules

Citations

MLA uses an author-page format, meaning in-text citations include the author's surname and a page number if you are quoting or paraphrasing a specific part of the text. Citation details are entered in round brackets. For example:

> Recent research (Jones and Henry 21; Smith et al. 103) shows…
>
> **or**
>
> …Evans (33) explains this clearly in his recent research...

If you have two authors with the same surname, use their forename if included in your sentence text and use their initials if included in brackets. For example: Anna Smith (15) or (A. Smith 15).

Works cited

For MLA you place the corresponding full references for all cited sources at the end of your work in a Works Cited list. Sources are listed in alphabetical order by author surname (or source title if there is no author.)

If the reference has two authors, the first author is written as surname, forename, and the second author is written as forename, surname.

Dates should be abbreviated in your references, and the http:// or https:// should be omitted from URLs.

References should be formatted with a hanging indent (all lines after the first are indented half an inch (1.3cm) from the left margin.)

Works cited examples

A selection of examples to get you started, check out Cite them right online for more:

Print book

Author. *Title*. Edition, Publisher, Year of publication. Series title.

For example:

Grix, Jonathan, and Gerald Watkins. *Information skills: finding and using the right resources*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

E-book

Author. *Title*. Version, Publisher, Year of publication. Series, if relevant. *Title of container*, URL *or* DOI.

For example:

Salecl, Renata. *A passion for ignorance: what we choose not to know and why*. Princeton UP, 2020. *De Gruyter Social Sciences Collection*, https://doi.org/10.1515/9780691202020.

An edited book chapter

Author. "Title of chapter/section." *Title of book*, edited by Name of editor of book, Publisher, Year of publication, Page numbers of chapter/section.

For example:

Isenhour, Cindy. "Sustainable consumption and its discontents." *Sustainability: key issues*, edited by Helen Kopnina and Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet, Routledge, 2015, pp. 133-154.

Journal article

Surname, forename of author. "Title of article." *Title of journal*, Volume number, Issue number, Year of publication, page numbers.

For example:

Borden, Sandra L. and Chad Tew. "The Role of Journalist and the Performance of Journalism: Ethical Lessons From "Fake" News (Seriously)." *Journal of Mass Media Ethics*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2007, pp. 300–314.

Online newspaper article

Author's surname, forename. "Title of article." *Title of newspaper*, Date, DOI *or* URL.

For example:

Cuff, Madeleine. "Moth numbers in the UK fall by one third, sparking fears for their long-term survival." *iNews*, 3 Mar. 2021, inews.co.uk/news/environment/moth-numbers-uk-fall-by-one-third-sparking-fears-for-long-term-survival-wildlife-895041.

Online report

Author. *Title of report*. Publisher/organisation, Publication date. URL *or* DOI.

For example:

Ofcom. *Understanding online false information in the UK: economist discussion paper series, Issue number 2*. Ofcom, 2021.

www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/211986/understanding-online-false-information-uk.pdf.

A webpage with individual author

Author or editor surname, forename. "Title of page." *Title of the website,* Date last updated, DOI or URL.

(If no *date last updated* available, add date accessed after DOI or URL.)

For example:

Magee, Annabelle. "How to keep your eyes healthy and protect your vision." *Bupa*, 19 Jan. 2023, www.bupa.co.uk/newsroom/ourviews/digital-eye-strain-glasses.

A webpage with no author

"Title of page." *Title of website*, date last updated, DOI *or* URL.

(If no *date last updated* available, add date accessed after DOI or URL.)

For example:

"From the 'Mona Lisa' to 'The wedding feast at Cana': The Salle des États." *The Louvre*, www.louvre.fr/en/explore/the-palace/from-the-mona-lisa-to-the-wedding-feast-at-cana. Accessed 9 Apr. 2021.

Online PhD thesis

Surname, forename. *Title of thesis or dissertation*. Year of award. Awarding institution, Level of qualification. *Repository name*, URL.

For example:

Robinson, Francis John Gibson. *Trends in education in Northern England during the eighteenth century: a biographical study*. 1972. Newcastle University, PhD thesis. *Newcastle University Theses*, theses.ncl.ac.uk/jspui/handle/10443/511.

Films or movies

Title. Directed by director forename surname, Distributor, year.

For example:

Moulin Rouge! Directed by Baz Luhrmann, 20th Century Fox, 2001.

Instagram

Name of account holder. "Title of post." *Instagram*, Date of posting, URL.

For example:

kellybehunstudio. "Green roof with a twist by MDA Architecture in Ho Chi Minh City / photo by Quang Tran." *Instagram*, 9 Oct. 2020, www.instagram.com/p/CGGu1QCBq8C/.

Citing ChatGPT and other generative AI

More guidance can be found on the official MLA style website: [How do I cite generative AI in MLA style?](#)

In-text citation format:
(Short form Title of source) i.e. describing what was generated by the AI tool

For example:
("Describe the symbolism")

Work cited format:

"Title of source" prompt. *Name of AI Tool*, version, Company, Date content was generated, General web address of tool/generated unique URL.

For example:

"Describe the symbolism of the green light in the book The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald" prompt. *ChatGPT*, 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 8 Mar. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat.

FAQs

How do I cite and reference a source quoted in another author's work?

This is called secondary referencing. First, we recommend that you try to locate and read the original source – this will ensure you are not taking the information out of context and allow you to reference the source as normal.

If you cannot find the original source (it may be out of print, unavailable or in a language you cannot read), then you provide a reference to the **secondary source in your works cited list** and refer to the **original source in your in-text citation** using the abbreviated *qtd. in* (for "quoted in")

For example:

…Smith (qtd. in Jones et al. 73) states that…

Only reference the source you read in your worked cited list.

How many authors do I include in the citation and works cited list?

Where there are one or two authors, include all authors in the in-text citation and in your works cited list. For example:

One of the key studies on this subject (Smith and Jones 88) explains…

If your source has **three or more authors,** you then use the first author's name followed by et al. (meaning 'and others') in both your in-text citation and full reference. However, if the author's name is part of your sentence, use 'and others' for your in-text citation. For example:

Research by Hwang and others (41) shows that…

Or

Recent research (Hwang et al.) shows that…

And

Hwang, Jin Kyoung, et al. "Spanish-speaking English Learners' English Language and Literacy Skills: The Predictive Role of Conceptually-scored Vocabulary." *Applied Psycholinguistics*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2020, pp. 1-24.

How do I cite and reference sources that have the same author?

When citing multiple works by the same author, include a short version of the title of the work in the in-text citation. For example:

Burn's research (*Agricola* 62) …

In the works cited list, alphabetise all entries by title then replace the author's name with a 3-em dash (—) in all entries after the first. For example:

Burn, Andrew. *Agricola and Roman Britain*. Collier Books, 1962.

—, *The Romans in Britain: An Anthology of Inscriptions : With Translations and a Running Commentary*. 2nd ed., Blackwell, 1969.