

Royce Silva

Dr. Pueo

English 100

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MLA Citation Style: A Sample

When writing a Modern Language Association (MLA) style paper, the entire paper should be double-spaced, font should be 12-point in Times New Roman or Arial, and margins around the entire paper should be 1 inch unless otherwise indicated by the instructor.

Just as in any type of paper, an important part of writing an MLA style paper is including in-text citations. MLA citations are typically in parentheses and include the last name of the author or authors and the page number from which the information came (Bailey 76). When there are three or fewer authors, the last names of the authors would be separated by the word “and” in the in-text citation and when mentioning them in the body of text (Bailey, Ernst, and Richards 264). If there are more than three authors, either all the last names of authors are listed followed by page number, or the citation may just include the last name of the first author followed by “et al” (Bailey et al. 87).

According to Carpenter, citations can be implemented in a sentence in this way where an author is introduced in the beginning but the page number would still be placed at the end of the sentence (54). If you are citing a source for a direct quote that has no page numbers (i.e. blog post, website), only the author’s last name is needed (Carpenter). If a source has no author, a title can take its place (“MLA Style”). Citing direct quotes would be done the same for paraphrased information with the exception of block quotes:

Block quotes are longer quotes, typically four or more lines of prose. The quotation should start on the next line of text and must be indented one inch from the left margin and no quotation marks are used. For block quotes, the parenthetical citation comes after the closing punctuation mark. (Adler 384)

MLA style papers also include a Works Cited page which contains all of the resources cited throughout the paper. Typical resources used when writing MLA papers are books, films, journal articles, and websites. Each type of resource has its own format for citations. More information regarding citations and the Works Cited page can be found in the box on the following page.

Works Cited

- Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*. A List Apart Mag., 16 Aug. 2002. Web. 4 May 2009.
- Ed Wood*. Dir. Tim Burton. Perf. Johnny Depp, Martin Landau, Sarah Jessica Parker, Patricia Arquette. Touchstone, 1994. DVD.
- Hardy, Thomas, and Cedric Watts. *Jude the Obscure*. Peterborough, Ont: Broadview Press, 1999. Print.
- Kimmel, Michael S. and Matthew Mahler. "Adolescent Masculinity, Homophobia, and Violence." *The American Behavioral Scientist* 46.10 (2003): 14-39. Print.

Notes about the Works Cited page:

- A hanging indent is used, where the first line of each entry is flush left and the subsequent lines are indented. Basically, the reverse of a paragraph indent. Works are organized alphabetically.
- Each type of source requires a slightly different format for citation, so be careful when citing all of your works to ensure that they are formatted properly.
- The first citation is for an article in a Web/Online magazine. MLA requires that you provide the author name, article name in quotation marks, title of the Web magazine in italics, publisher name, publication date, medium of publication, and the date of access.
- The second citation is for a film/movie. List films by their title. Include the name of the director, the distributor, and the release year. If relevant, list performer names after the director's name. Use the abbreviation *perf.* to head the list. End the entry with the appropriate medium of publication (e.g. DVD, VHS, Laser disc).
- The third citation is for a book. The author's name (inverted) comes first, followed by the title, city of publication, publisher, year of publication, and medium of publication.
- The last citation is for a scholarly/peer-reviewed article. For all online scholarly journals, provide the author(s) name(s), the name of the article in quotation marks, the title of the publication in italics, all volume and issue numbers, and the year of publication.