

What is MLA?

Modern Language Association (MLA) style is a standardized system of formatting the appearance of your writing. It is primarily used in writing for Humanities departments.

In-Text (Internal) Citations

Used to tell your readers where to look for full source information on your Works Cited page

Example: “. . . history” (Woolf 5).

- Include the first word from your full Works Cited entry that isn't “the,” “a,” or “an” (this will almost always be the author's name) if you have more than one source in your paper plus the page number that you got your information from.
- If you only have one source in your paper, you can just use the page number in parentheses.

Works Cited Page

Belongs at the end of your paper and includes enough information about your sources in the standard MLA format that your readers can easily find them to double-check your facts if they want to

Example:

Works Cited

Seuss. *The Cat in the Hat*. New York: Random House, 1985.

Print.

Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*. San Diego: Harcourt

Brace Jovanovich, 1989. Print.

- Citation generated from Easy Bib in MLA format.
- Second line of each citation is indented.
- Final list of sources is in alphabetical order.
- Should be a separate page, double spaced, with “Works Cited” title

MLA Citations Quick Guide

Ways to use sources in your writing:

- Direct quote (4 lines or less directly from text; use quotation marks plus an internal citation)
- Block quote (4 lines or more directly from text; no quotation marks, indent your entire quote one inch, and use an internal citation before the last punctuation mark)
- Paraphrase (summarize or rewrite a writer's idea in your own words, still need internal citation before your last punctuation mark)

Online Resources

For citation-generating tools (RefWorks recommended if you are using academic articles):
http://guides.nyu.edu/citation_tools

For basic MLA citation creation:
<http://easybib.com/>

For MLA citation guidelines:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Need individual help?

Email the library at nyushanghailibrary@library.nyu.edu, schedule a writing consultation in the ARC at nyus.mywconline.com, or just drop by the ARC or the library to ask!