

MLA is a documentation style commonly used in the liberal arts and humanities (except history). For more MLA help, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2016), 8th ed., or visit the Writing Studio.

Your citations should include both a parenthetical reference and a Works Cited entry.

Parenthetical References

A reference is required at the end of a sentence that contains any information that is borrowed or that is not common knowledge. The information required in the parenthetical citation depends on the entry on the Works Cited page.

Formatting: Put the author's last name and page number(s) on which the cited information appears. The period goes after the parentheses.

Ex. Writing is described as a process where the latest version of a text "begins somewhere in the work's middle, and hardens toward the end" (Dillard 5).

If the author's name is included in the body of the text, only the page number needs to appear in the parentheses.

Ex. Author Annie Dillard notes how a literary work "begins somewhere in the work's middle, and hardens toward the end" (5).

Also include a parenthetical citation for summarized information.

Ex. Annie Dillard explores how writing is a process that does not necessarily begin at the beginning of a text (5).

Some print sources may not contain an author. In that case, use a shortened title of the work – a signal phrase – that corresponds to the full title included in the Works Cited.

For a website, if the site contains an author, include that information. If the source is a website that does not list an author, use the title of the webpage in quotes instead. If the source lists neither an author nor a webpage title, use the title of the website and *italicize* it.

Works Cited Page

At the end of the paper, add a page entitled "Works Cited" where you list publication information about each source cited in the text.

Formatting: List the entries alphabetically by author's last name. Double-space between each line on the page. The first line of the entry should align with the left margin; indent subsequent lines of that entry by 0.5 inches. Titles of major works like books, websites, films, and journals should appear in *italics*. Place titles of shorter works like articles, webpages, and short poems in quotation marks.

Note: MLA no longer requires the medium of publication, nor the city of publication. Rather, the 8th edition recommends including as many of the core elements (listed below) as possible. Core Elements: (1) Author; (2) Title of Source; (3) Title of Container [such as the name of a journal]; (4) Other contributors; (5) Version; (6) Number; (7) Publisher; (8) Publication Date; (9) Location [such as page numbers, as well as URL to website or DOI (digital object identifiers)].

Works Cited Example

Print journal article. Author last name, First name. "Article Title." *Journal Title*. volume.issue (month year): article page #'s. Medium.

Book. Author last name, First name. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, year of publication. Medium.

Part of an anthology or chapter in a collection of essays. Author's last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of collection*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Page range for entry. Medium.

Personal or professional website. Author's last name, First name. "Webpage Title." *Website Title*. Date published. Medium. Date accessed.

Book with two authors.

Works Cited

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's *Bashai Tudu*." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* vol. 15, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-50.

Dillard, Annie. *The Writing Life*. HarperPerennial, 1989.

Gunning, Sandra. "Now That They Have Us, What's the Point? The Challenge of Hiring to Create Diversity." *Power, Race, and Gender in Academe: Strangers in the Tower?*. Editors Shirley Geok-Lin Lim and Maria Herrera-Sobek. The Modern Language Association, 2000, pp. 171-182.

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*. Demand Media, n.d. 30 March 2016.

Mooney, Jonathan, and David Cole. *Learning Outside the Lines: Two Ivy League Students with Learning Disabilities and ADHD Give You the Tools for Academic Success and Educational Revolution*. Fireside, 2000.