

WRITING AND
COMMUNICATION CENTER

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MLA uses the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the **author’s last name and the page number** from which the quotation or paraphrase was found must appear in your paper as an in-text citation. If the source has no page numbers, just include the author’s last name. Sometimes a source is authored by an organization (for example, a report issued by a government agency), in which case you list the organization as the author. If the author is unknown, use the title of the article within the citation. When citing multiple sources from the same author, be sure to include a shortened version of the title within the in-text parenthetical citation to distinguish between the sources.

The way that you format the in-text citation depends on the length of the quote:

SHORT QUOTATIONS

For quotations that are fewer than four typed lines of prose or three lines of poetry, enclose the quotation within double quotation marks. Give the page number, or in the case of poetry, the line numbers, in the parenthetical citation.

When writing your personal statement, concentrate on the opening paragraph because that is “generally the most important” (Stelzer 8).

Wang wrote in the poem, “The brightest thing in all of heaven / Is dull compared to thee” (17-18).

LONG QUOTATIONS

When your quotation is four or more lines, place the quotation in an indented block of text without quotation marks. The quotation will still be double spaced. Place your parenthetical citation **after** the last punctuation mark (this is different from short quotations). When citing long sections of poetry, keep the formatting as close to the original as possible, including the original line breaks.

Sylvia Barnet presents numerous issues to consider when writing about art. When discussing portraits, for example, she tells us that a portrait

is not simply a representation; it is also a presentation. In a given portrait, how much of the figure does the artist show, and how much of the available space does the artist cause the figure to occupy? What effects are thus gained? (23)

Although she uses physical characteristics, Maya Angelou presents a non-superficial view of women’s strengths in her poem, “Phenomenal Woman”:

But when I start to tell them
They think I’m telling lies.
I say,
It’s in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride in my step... (1-8)

According to MLA, you must have a Works Cited page at the end of your paper. The entries in the Works Cited page should match the signal word or phrase in your in-text citation (the signal word or phrase is typically the author's last name; this is what appears in parentheses in your in-text citation and is the first thing listed on the Works Cited entry).

GENERAL FORMAT

- Begin the Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your paper. It will have the same margins and header as the rest of the paper.
- Label the page as Works Cited (or Work Cited, if only one item is cited) just as you titled the paper: regular font, title caps, no underline, no italics, and no quotation marks.
- Double space!
- Use hanging indents. (See the sample Works Cited at the end of the handout for an example.)
- Titles of major works (books, journals, magazines, etc.) should be italicized. Titles of minor works (articles, poems, chapters, etc.) should be enclosed in quotation marks.
- Include the format of the work at the end of the citation (Print, Web, DVD, etc.)

EXAMPLES

BOOK BY ONE AUTHOR

Author, A. Title of Book. Edition (if any). City of publication: Publisher, Year of publication. Medium.

Barnet, Sylvan. *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*. 3rd ed. New York: HarperCollins, 1989. Print.

BOOK BY TWO OR MORE AUTHORS

Author, A, and B Author. Title of Book. Edition (if any). City of publication: Publisher, Year of publication. Medium.

Browne, M. Neil, and Stuart M. Keeley. *Asking the Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking*. 9th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2010. Print.

Wysocki, Anne Frances, Johndan Johnson-Eilola, Cynthia L. Selfe, and Geoffrey Sirc. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Logan: Utah State UP, 2004. Print.

BOOK WITH NO KNOWN AUTHOR

Institutional author. Title. City of publication: Publisher, Year of publication. Medium.

American Allergy Association. *Allergies in Children*. New York: Random, 1998. Print.

A WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY OR COLLECTION

Author, A. "Title of Chapter, Essay, Poem, or Story." *Title of Anthology*. Ed. Editor's Name. City of publication: Publisher, Year of publication. Page range of entry. Medium.

Gladwell, Malcolm. "What the Dog Saw." *Best American Essays 2007*. Ed. David Foster Wallace. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007. 86-102. Print.

ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

Author, A. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume.Issue (Year of publication): Page range of entry. Medium.

Sheets, Hilarie M. "Getting the Party Started." *ARTNews* 106.2 (2007): 49-50. Print.

WEBSITE OR PAGE ON A WEBSITE

"Title of page." *Title of Website*. Publisher (organization that publishes the website), date of publication. Medium. Date of access.

"How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*. Demand Media, n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2009.

ARTICLE IN A NEWSPAPER

Author, A. "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* Date of publication: Section. Medium.

Stewart, Kennedy. "No Time for Sleeping." *New York Times* 21 May 2006 late ed.: B1. Print.

CLASS LECTURE/NOTES

Speaker, A. "Title of Speech/Lecture (if any)." Meeting name/organization. Location, Date. Medium.

Blackburn, Susan. BIS 107 B, Bothell, WA. 3 October 2014. Lecture.

FILM

***Title*. Dir. Director. Perf. Performers. Film studio, Release year. Medium of publication (DVD, VHS, BluRay, etc)**

Ed Wood. Dir. Tim Burton. Perf. Johnny Depp, Martin Landau, Sarah Jessica Parker, Patricia Arquette. Touchstone, 1994. DVD.

ONLINE VIDEO

Author's Name or Poster's Username. "Title." Media Type. Name of Website. Name of Website's Publisher, date of posting. Medium. Date retrieved.

Shimabukuro, Jake. "Ukulele Weeps by Jake Shimabukuro." Online video clip. *YouTube*. YouTube, 22 Apr. 2006. Web. 9 Sept. 2010.

Don't forget the header!

Blackburn 7

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Works Cited

Alter, Robert, and Marilynne Robinson. "The Psalms: A Reading and Conversation." 92nd Street Y, New York. 17 Dec. 2007. Reading.

Katz, Jonathan Ned. "The Invention of Heterosexuality." *Race, Class, and Gender in the United States*, 7th Edition. Ed. Paula S. Rothenberg. New York: Worth Publishers, 2007. 68-80. Print.

Kincaid, Jamaica. "Time Rules in Jamaica Kincaid's New Novel, See Now Then." *NPR Books*. NPR, 2013. Web. 4 March 2013.

---. *Annie John*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1985. Print.

---. Interview by Kay Bonetti. *The Missouri Review*. University of Missouri, 2002. Web. 17 Apr. 2013.

Lucas, George, dir. *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*. Twentieth Century Fox, 1977. Film.

Murdoch, H. Adlai. "Severing the (M)Other Connection: The Representation of Cultural Identity in Jamaica Kincaid's *Annie John*." *Callaloo* 13.2 (2009): 325-340. Print.

Valens, Keja. "Obvious And Ordinary." *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 25.2 (2004): 123-149. Print.

Hanging indent

Remember that your Works Cited page should be double spaced

(Note: citations here are single-spaced to conserve paper. Your Works Cited page should be double spaced like the rest of your paper.)

Citing more than one work by the same author

This handout includes information on how to create in-text citations and works cited entries using MLA format. Only the most common types of sources are represented here; for other examples, visit the Purdue OWL MLA resource (owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/) or consult the MLA Handbook (available in the Writing and Communication Center or the Campus Library).