

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA) IN-TEXT CITATION & WORKS CITED

When writing an essay or research paper, a writer may find it necessary to use information from another source to support the point the writer is trying to make. Whether the writer paraphrases the information or idea, or quotes it directly, credit must be given to the author / source of the information. There exist a number of ways to give credit, also known as citing, to sources used in a writer's essays or research papers. One such form is the Modern Language Association (MLA) form of citation. This format involves providing information on a source both in the text of the paper, known as in-text citation, and at the end of the paper, in the "Works Cited" page. **This handout is not meant to be comprehensive.**

MLA In-text Citation

The basic information for an in-text citation includes the author's last name and a page number letting the reader know where the information can be located in the original document. This information can either be supplied in a signal phrase or at the end of the citation. The information provided needs to be extensive enough so that the reader can identify which source it was taken from when he or she consults the writer's works cited page. Also, the writer must decide whether to cite the information exactly as it is written in the source or whether to paraphrase it.

1. **Author named in the signal phrase** - author's last name appears within the sentence introducing the material

Directly quoted: Turback claims that "regulated sport hunting has never driven any wild species into extinction" (74).

*Turback is the author and the number in parentheses is the page number (74). Note: Since this is a direct quote, quotation marks had to be used. Also, the parentheses come **after** the quotation marks, and the period comes **after** the parentheses.*

Paraphrased: Turback claims that no wild species have become extinct as a result of regulated sport hunting (74).

Since the information has been paraphrased, no quotation marks are needed. However, the name of the author and the page number must still be provided.

2. **Author not named in a signal phrase** - author's last name appears inside the parentheses

Directly quoted: "Scientists are concerned by the increasing rate of lion attacks since the 1960's, even though the number of human attacks is low" (Rychnovsky 43).

Paraphrased: Though the number of lion attacks on humans is low, the rate of increase of attacks since the 1960's is cause for serious concern (Rychnovsky 43).

3. **No author** - use an abbreviated form of the title followed by the page number

No wild species have become extinct as a result of regulated sport hunting ("Mountain Lion" 74).

MLA Works Cited

The Works Cited page provides all the publication information a reader would need to locate the original source. All entries must be alphabetized. The first line of the entry is not indented, but any additional lines pertaining to the same entry are indented one-half inch (or five spaces). It is important that special care be taken with punctuating the entries correctly.

Basic book format

Generic: Last name, first name. Title of the book. City: Publisher, Year of publication.

Sample: Capote, Truman. In Cold Blood. New York: Vintage International, 1993.

Basic article format

Generic: Last name, first name. "Title of Article." Title of the magazine/ journal Date of publication: Page numbers.

Sample: Kaplan, Robert D. "History Moving North." Atlantic Monthly Feb. 1997: 21-25.

Basic Internet format

Generic: Last name, first name (if named). "Title of Article." Title of the periodical Date of publication: Page numbers (if available). Source type (i.e. CD-ROM, Online). Date writer accessed the information <Address (URL)>.

Sample: Inada, Kenneth. "A Buddhist Response to the Nature of Human Rights." Journal of Buddhist Ethics 2 (1995):1-31. Online. 1 June 1995.
<<http://www.cac.psu.edu.edu/jbe/twocont.html>>.

Basic Online Database format

Generic: Last name, first name (if named). "Title of Article." Title of the periodical Date of publication: Page numbers (if available). Name of Database. Source type. Distributor. Date writer accessed the information.

Sample: DePalma, Anthony. "Mexicans Renew Their Pact on the Economy Retaining the Emphasis on Stability." The New York Times 24 Sept. 1994: 4. The New York Times Ondisc. UMI-Proquest. Jan. 1995.

For more examples of these and other types of citations or works cited entries, please refer to A Writer's Reference, 8th ed., by Diana Hacker, Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide, 11th ed., by James D. Lester, or The MLA Handbook by the Modern Language Association.