Sierra Writing Center

Term Paper Handbook for MLA Format

9th Edition
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Updated August 2022
Sierra College, Rocklin, California
MLA-STYLE RESEARCH PAPER

Some important aspects of the Modern Language Association (MLA) style paper are exemplified in the following sample pages of a student's research paper.

FIRST PAGE FORMAT

The first page of an MLA-style paper must include a heading. The heading begins in the upper-left corner, one inch from the top of the page. It consists of your name, the instructor's name, the course, and the date. Double-space all information. Double-space from the last line of the heading to the title. Center the title. The title should not be boldfaced, quoted, underlined, or italicized. The first letters of the main words should be capitalized. The first line of the essay is double-spaced from the title and indented one half inch (one pre-set tab).

PAGINATION

Your last name and page number should appear in a header in the upper right-hand corner, one half inch from the top of all pages, with one space between your name and the page number.
The Benefits of Mindfulness Meditation for College Students

Meditation is a centuries long exercise, but mindfulness is gaining traction today as it has proven to have many benefits in helping manage stress and improve well-being. Psychologists have found that mindfulness meditation changes our brain and biology in positive ways, improving mental and physical health (“Stress”). College students are found to be under a lot of stress that often impairs their ability to focus and perform tasks well due to academic challenges, social changes, or family pressures. Almost half of college students demonstrate some form of stress resulting in physical ailments such as abdominal pain (Felver et al.). Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) is found to be an effective method to reduce stress and promote psychological and physiological health and well-being. Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn, creator of the Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, discusses a mindfulness-based stress reduction program, which shows how to use natural but medically proven methods to “soothe and heal the body, mind, and spirit . . . MSBR is an established program shown to reduce symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression” (5).

The ability to manage stress and pay attention to whatever tasks are at hand are important determiners of well-being and successful learning. Issues that have been linked mostly to adults, such as anxiety and depression, are becoming serious concerns for young people.
IN-TEXT CITATIONS—OVERVIEW

If you are not familiar with in-text citations, study the examples throughout this student essay. On page 1 of the sample paper, the first in-text citation reads ("Stress"). You will also find the following examples: Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn . . . (5) and (Felver et al.), These are common examples of how in-text citations occur.

Whenever you include information in your paper from another source, you must give credit to that source. (There is an exception for common knowledge.) To give this credit, refer to the source (1) within your writing in a sentence and/or in parentheses, and (2) at the end of the paper on the works-cited page. The in-text citation and the works-cited list correlate. Study the sample student paper, including the works-cited page, for a clearer understanding of this method, and study the following pages on in-text citations. If you have further questions, ask a Writing Center staff member for clarification.

QUOTING

When you copy exact words that you find in a text, you must use quotation marks (" "). You must copy the word(s), sentence, or passage precisely as it appears, and you must be sure to give credit to the author in the form of an in-text citation and on your works-cited page.

For passages longer than four lines, use the block quotation method. A block quotation is indented half an inch (one tab) from the left margin then carried to the normal margin on the right. Double-space block quotations like the rest of the paper. An example of this method appears on page 4 of the sample student paper. Note that in a block quotation, the period precedes the citation.

When you use a quotation of an indirect source—that is, your source has quoted from another source—you must include the name of the original speaker or writer of the quotation and cite the source where you found it. The original speaker or writer of the words may be identified in the sentence or in the in-text citation. Put the abbreviation qtd. in (meaning “quoted in”) before your source's author (or title, if no author) in the in-text citation.
According to a study conducted in 2018 by Connie Titone and colleagues, they report:

With adolescent suicide rates increasing every year (AFSP, 2016), the mental health of adolescents—especially black and LGBT youth—has become a major concern of educators. Mindfulness practice, generally comprising breathing or focusing exercises that enhance attention and awareness, has increasingly been shown to be a powerful method of addressing the mental health needs of young people. . . Evidence supports the fact that students who practice mindfulness have increased feelings of calmness, relaxation, and self-acceptance.

To help reduce some of the stress students feel, some universities, for example, the University of California Santa Cruz, a public research university, offers meditation sessions four days a week in locations across campus. Their website says, "The sessions are free and open to faculty, staff, and students. . . The exercises are nondenominational and secular. Each one will be about five minutes of introduction, 15-20 minutes of silent sitting or sitting and movement, and conclude with five minutes of questions and answers" (qtd. in “Should Meditation”). Some claim that colleges should have no role in offering meditation while others commend them in their effects to help students.

The main three components of self-compassion, which are self-kindness, common humanity, and mindfulness, were found to be positively correlated with health-promoting behaviors. People who are kind and understanding toward themselves rather than being harshly critical, who see their experiences as a natural part of being human, and who are mindful toward their negative feelings exhibited higher levels of healthy lifestyle habits (Gedik). During mindful meditation, one is trained at being aware of the senses engaging the mind in the present moment
IN-TEXT CITATIONS (WITH EXAMPLES)

A formal MLA-style research paper requires both in-text citations and a works-cited page at the end of the paper.

An in-text citation should appear with a direct quotation, paraphrase, or summary to indicate which source you have used. In-text citations must easily guide readers from the cited material in your text to the correct source on your works-cited page, as well as inform the reader of the location (page number) in the source from which your quotation, paraphrase, or summary was taken.

1. **When the author or title is not named in your sentence(s),** provide the author’s last name and the page numbers, if any, with no punctuation between them.

   Example: “The period from 1958 to 1968 marked the most active years in the United States for demonstrations and actions that opened up opportunities for black Americans” (Jacobs 199).

2. **If the source has labelled paragraph numbers,** use the author, a comma, and the paragraph number(s) (par. or pars.).

   Example: The narrator explains, “He [Vidal] planned to take the Judge by surprise” (Allende, par. 17).

3. **If a work has two authors,** give both last names (Gardner and Lambert 14). For more than two authors, use the first author’s last name followed by the Latin *et al*.

   Example: “If you are a beginning writer, you may mistakenly believe you are a poor writer because you cannot produce a final copy on your first try” (Markline et al. 101).

4. **When the author or title is named in your sentence,** you do not need to repeat it in the in-text citation.

   Example: According to Jacobs, the decade from 1958 to 1968 was a time of many civil rights protests (119).
5. **For sources with three or more authors**, you can list all of the coauthors in your signal phrase or use the first author’s name followed by “and others” or “and colleagues.”

Example: According to Markline and colleagues, “If you are a beginning writer, you may mistakenly believe you are a poor writer because you cannot produce a final copy on your first try” (101).

6. **When your works-cited page contains two or more works by the same author**, you must list the name of the work (shortened title) in the in-text citation.

Example: A language learner’s errors are viewed as part of an intermediate language variety (Schumann, "Implications" 145).

7. **If you refer to information from an entire text**, rather than just part of it, you do not need to cite the page numbers.


8. **If the works-cited entry begins with the title**, use a shortened title for in-text citations. Use the first few words of the title, if they are a noun phrase, or just the first word. If the first word is *a, an, or the*, skip it and use the second word. Put the shortened title in either quotation marks or italics, the same as in the works-cited list. (This situation occurs when there is no author or the same organization is both author and publisher.)

Example: One chapter reports that the serious writer is always well-disciplined (“Writing Life” 16).
9. **To refer to material from two different sources**, cite each source by author and page number, and separate the two with a semicolon.

Example: Two works on writing fiction point out that character-driven plots tend to be more literary, and sales tend to be less than for genre fiction, which relies on plot and action (Gardner 333; Harris 324).

10. **Information from a personal interview** is cited by using the source’s last name in the parentheses. No in-text citation is necessary if the source’s name is included in the sentence.

Example: Novelist Donald Samson said the critics ignored his first novel.

11. **If the author of the source is a public or private organization**, use the whole name for in-text citations. If the name is long, consider using it in the sentence to avoid a lengthy in-text citation. (Note: If the organization is both the author and the publisher, refer to number 6 above.)

Example: The National Audubon Society found significant changes in its annual bird count that may reflect global warming.

12. **To cite a dictionary definition**, quote and capitalize the word like the title of an article. You can follow it with a comma and the number of the definition.

Example: Perry’s use of the word *liberal* refers to education in the liberal arts (*"Liberal,"* 1a) or (*"Liberal"*).

13. **If you cite two anonymous works with the same title**, add another significant piece of information from the source, often the date, to differentiate the two:

Examples: Dickinson was a recluse who did not accept change (*"Emily,"* Dictionary).

Among Dickinson’s most prevalent themes are death, loss, and regeneration (*"Emily,"* Modern).

15. For in-text citations of **sound and video recordings**; if citing a particular section of a recording, write the time stamp. If citing the entire work, no timestamp is needed.
Example: (*Stranger Than Fiction* 00:32:55-35:01)

16. When citing a **verse play**, write the act, scene and line numbers, which can be located in any edition of the work. For a **poem**, write the part, stanza, and line numbers, separated by periods. If no parts or stanzas are in the poem, simply put “line(s)” followed by line number(s). If citing a poem with lines more than once, use the word “lines” for the first citation only.
However, only include line numbers if they are present in the source (do not count lines by hand).
Verse play example: (*Shakespeare* 4.2.148-49)
Poem example: (*Hughes* 2.5-6) or (*Cummings* lines 7-8)
WORKS-CITED FORMAT

The works-cited page is placed at the end of your essay and lists all the resources you have referred to in your paper. Note the following characteristics of the works-cited page:

1. Your name and page number appear in the upper right corner in the header.

2. The title, Works Cited, is centered without any additional formatting like underlining, bold font, italics, or quotation marks.

3. Entries are double-spaced—that is, double-space lines within the entries and between the entries. No extra space occurs between entries.

4. Entries are listed in alphabetical order by
   • author's last name, or
   • title, if the source does not have an author.

Ignore the articles a, an, and the when alphabetizing by titles. If the title begins with a number, alphabetize as if the number were spelled out.

5. When using more than one work by the same author, do not repeat the author's name. Instead, use three hyphens followed by a period for each entry after the first. Put that author’s works in order by title.

6. Co-publishers are both listed with a space, slash (/), space between them.

7. When including URLs, you may omit http:// or https://, unless your professor requests hyperlinks and your writing software requires the protocol (http:// or https://) to hyperlink.

8. If a URL is longer than three lines, you may truncate the URL and keep just the host.
Example:

https://go-gale-com.proxy.sierracollege.edu/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=T001&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=SingleTab&hitCount=1&searchType=BasicSearchForm&currentPosition=1&docId=GALE%7CA631901172&docType=Article&sort=Relevance&contentSegment=ZLRC-MOD1&prodId=GLS&pageNum=1&contentSet=GALE%7CA631901172&searchId=R2&userGroupName=rock89639&inPS=true

The above URL could be truncated as the following:

go.gale-gale-com.proxy.sierracollege.edu/ps

9. You must adhere to the MLA format (punctuation and spacing) for these entries. See the MLA-style works-cited models on the following pages.
Works Cited


MLA-Style Documentation Models for a Works-Cited Page

The following are some models of how sources of information must appear on the works-cited page at the end of an academic paper. For each entry, follow the punctuation and spacing exactly. More models and explanations can be found in the official *MLA Handbook*, 9th edition, 2021, and at The MLA Style Center Web site: style.mla.org.

**Books**

**Book with One Author:**

*Note:* Look for information about the publisher on the front and back of the title page. Eliminate business words like *Incorporated* or *Company*, but keep the rest of the publisher’s name. Use the abbreviation *UP* for “university press.”

**Works Cited Format:**

Author’s Last Name, First Name. *Title*. Publisher, Year.

**In-Text Citation Format:**

(Author’s Last Name Page Number)

**Works Cited Example:**


**In-Text Citation Example:**

(Tan 31)

**Book with Two Authors:**

*Note:* When there are two authors, put a comma followed by the word *and* before the second author. Put the first author’s last name first, but give the second author’s name in the normal order.

**Works Cited Format:**

First Author’s Last Name, First Name, and Second Author’s First and Last Names. *Title*. Edition number, Publisher, Year.

**In-Text Citation Format:**

(First Author’s Last Name and Second Author’s Last Name Page Number)

**Works Cited Example:**


**In-Text Citation Example:**

(Langan and Goldstein 112)
BOOK WITH THREE OR MORE AUTHORS:
Note: When there are three or more authors, use only the first author’s name followed by *et al.*, for “and others.”

Works Cited Format:
First Author’s Last Name, First Name, *et al.* Title: Subtitle. Publisher, Year.

In-Text Citation Format:
(First Author’s Last Name et al. Page #)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Roger et al. 27)

SHORT WORK OR CHAPTER IN A BOOK (ANTHOLOGY):
Note: Use this format to cite one piece of writing in a collection of works by different authors (anthology).

Works Cited Format:
Author of Short Work’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of Short Work.” Book Title:

Subtitle, edited by Editors’ First and Last Names, Edition, Publisher, Year, Pages.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author of Short Work’s Last Name Page #)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Walker 492)
POETRY

Note: Use the slash (/) with a space on each side to separate quoted lines of poetry when quoting only two or three lines. Use quotation marks around the quoted material and integrate the quotation into the context of your paper as usual. Mark stanza breaks with two slashes (//). For the in-text citation, write the part, stanza, and line numbers (if present) separated by periods. If no parts, stanzas, or line numbers are in the poem, simply put the poet’s last name in parenthesis

Works Cited Format (In Anthology):
Poet’s last name, First name. “Poem Title.” Book Title, edited by Editor first name Last name, Publisher, Year, Page number(s).

Works Cited Format (On Website):
Author last name, First name. “Poem Title.” Original publication year. Website Name, Day Month Year, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Poet’s Last Name, Part.Stanza.Line)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Frost)

BOOK WITH EDITOR(S):

Note: When citing a whole book compiled by one or two editors, start with the name(s) of the editor(s) followed by the word editor or editors. If the book has more than two editors, put et al. (not in italics) after the first editor’s name and before the word editors. Follow this model when citing material written by the editor(s) of the whole book, not the author of a chapter or work in the book.

Works Cited Format:
First Editor’s Last Name, First Name, and Second Editor’s First and Last Names, editor(s). Title: Subtitle. Edition, Publisher, Year.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Editor’s Last Name(s) Page #)
Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Kennedy and Gioia 15)

CROSS-REFERENCES:
Note: To cross-reference two or more works (such as chapters, essays, or short stories) from the same book, cite the book starting with the editor(s) (see sample above). Then, in separate entries, give the author and title of each chapter or short work followed by the editors of the book and the page numbers of the entire short work.

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of Chapter or Short Work.” Editors of Book, Pages of Chapter or Short Work.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author of Short Work’s Last Name Page #)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Walker 491)

INTRODUCTION, PREFACE, FOREWORD, OR AFTERWORD:

Works Cited Format:
Author of Part. Title of Part. Book Title, by Book Author, by Book Author, edited by Last Name of Editor Who is the Same as Author, Publisher, Year, Pages of Part.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author of Part Page #)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Barnet 1xcii)
BOOK ON THE INTERNET:

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. Book Title. Publisher, Year. Database or Web Site Title, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name Page #[if provided])

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Brontë)

E-BOOK FOR AN ELECTRONIC READER LIKE KINDLE OR NOOK:

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. Title. Edition, Publisher, Year.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name page #[if provided])

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Austen)

SACRED TEXT:

Works Cited Format:
Title. Original Publication Date. Version, Publisher, Year.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Title of Book, Chapter Verse #)

Works Cited Example:
In-Text Citation Example:
(Holy Bible, Ezek. 1.5)

ONLINE SACRED TEXT:

Works Cited Format:
Title. Version. Site Title, Publication Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Title of Book, Chapter Verse #)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Holy Bible, Ezek. 1.5)

ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE BOOK:
Note: Cite an article in a reference book like a section in any other book. If no author is given, begin the citation with the article title or, in a dictionary, the word that is defined.

Encyclopedia Example:

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Reference Book Title, Volume, Publisher, Year, Pages.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name page #) or if no author: (“Article Title” page #)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Cloos 34) or if no author: (“Earthquake” 34)
Dictionary Example:

Works Cited Format:
“Word, Abbreviated Part of Speech. (Number of Definition).” Dictionary Title, Edition, Publisher, Year, Page.

In-Text Citation Format:
(“Word” Page#)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(“Home” 649)

ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA OR DICTIONARY:
Note: For online sources, the publisher may be omitted if it is the same as the title of the Web site.

Works Cited Format (Encyclopedia):
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Web Site Title, Year, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name) or if no author: (“Article Title”)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Jay)

Works Cited Format (Dictionary):
“Word, Abbreviated Part of Speech. (Number of Definition).” Dictionary Title, Publisher, Year, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(“Word”)

16
Works Cited Example:
www.dictionary.com/browse/home.

In-Text Citation Example
(“Home”)

ACADEMIC JOURNALS AND OTHER PERIODICALS

SCHOLLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE:

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Journal Title, Volume, Issue, Year, Pages.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name page#)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Marshall 130)

ONLINE SCHOLLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE (NOT FROM A DATABASE):

Note: If the article has a digital object identifier (DOI), give that instead of the URL or Permalink. If the DOI provided does not include http:// or https://, place https://doi.org/ (not italicized) before the DOI.

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Journal Title, Volume, Issue, Publication Date, Pages, Web Site or Database Title, DOI of Article.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name page# [if provided])
Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Kelly 452)

ONLINE-ONLY SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE (NOT FROM A DATABASE):

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Journal Title, Volume, Issue, Year,
Stable URL (Permalink).

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Powell)

MAGAZINE ARTICLE:

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Magazine, Date, Page.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name page#)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Smith 46)
ONLINE MAGAZINE ARTICLE:

Works Cited Format:
   Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Magazine Title, Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
   (Author’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
   (Lichtenstein)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE:

Note: If no author’s name is given, start with the title; do not treat news agencies such as Associated Press or Reuters as the author. Follow the MLA format for titles even if your source does not; do not use all capital or all lower-case letters. If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, put the first page of the article and a plus sign.

Works Cited Format:
   Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Newspaper Title, Edition, Date, Pages.

In-Text Citation Format:
   (Author’s Last Name page#)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
   (Martin A1)

ONLINE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE:

Works Cited Format:
   Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Newspaper Title, Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
   (Author’s Last Name)
Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Caiola)

ADVERTISEMENT:

Works Cited Format:
Product Name. *Magazine Title*, Date, Page.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Product Name Page #)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Ray-Ban 9)

ONLINE ADVERTISEMENT:

Works Cited Format:
Product Name. Website (or *Magazine Title*), Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Product Name)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Coke)
Databases

Article from an Online Research Database:
Note: For an article found on a research database, you must cite its original publication information, followed by the database, and the DOI (digital object identifier number) or stable URL (permalink). If the DOI provided does not include http:// or https://, place https://doi.org/ (not italicized) before the DOI.

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title: Subtitle.” Periodical Title, Volume, Issue, Date, Pages, Database, DOI.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name page#)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Franz 281)

Reprint of an Article in a Volume of Literary Criticism on a Database:

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Title of Book Where Article is Reprinted, edited by Editor’s First and Last Name(s), Volume, Publisher, Year, Pages, Database, Stable URL (Permalink). Original Periodical, Volume, Year, Pages.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name page#)
Works Cited Example:

https://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CH1420072703&v=2.1&u=rock89639&it=r&p=LitRC&sw=w&asid=92b5b182366d425b32079e33eac62170.


In-Text Citation Example:
(Griffith 343)

ABSTRACT OF AN ARTICLE IN A LIBRARY RESEARCH DATABASE:
Note: If the DOI provided does not include http:// or https://, place https://doi.org/ (not italicized) before the DOI.

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. Abstract of “Article Title.” *Periodical Title*, Volume, Issue, Date, Pages, *Database*, DOI.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name page#)

Works Cited Example:


In-Text Citation Example:
(Hellier et al. 539)
WEB SITES

WEB SITE OR HOME PAGE:
Note: Use this format to cite a whole Web site or the home page of a Web site. If no author or editor is given, begin with the title. Omit the publisher if it is the same as the site title.

Works Cited Format:
   Site Title. Publication Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
   (Site Title)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
   (The Nature Conservancy)

WEB PAGE OR DOCUMENT ON A WEB SITE:
Note: Use this format to cite each document or page you use that is part of the entire Web Site.

Works Cited Format:
   Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Document or Page Title.” Site Title, Publisher,
   Publication Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
   (Author’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
   (Gurung)

WEB PAGE OR DOCUMENT WITH NO AUTHOR:
Note: Omit the publisher if it is the same as the site title.

Works Cited Format:
   “Web Page/Document Title.” Web Site Title, Date, URL.
In-Text Citation Format:
(“Web Page/Document Title”)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(“Natural History Museum”)

WEB PAGE OR DOCUMENT WITH NO PUBLICATION DATE:
Note: It is important to include your access date, if there is no date on the Web site.

Works Cited Format:
“Web Page/Document Title.” Web Site Title, URL. Access Date.

In-Text Citation Format:
(“Web Page/Document Title”)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(“Agriculture”)

HANDOUT UPLOADED TO CANVAS (OR OTHER WEB SITE):

Works Cited Format:
Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Web Site, uploaded by Professor who Uploaded Article, Date of Upload, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Author’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Dweck)
LEGAL CITATIONS

Note: Do not italicize or quote the title of a law or similar document, such as a declaration or treaty. However, the names of court cases should be italicized. These citations start with the government and the part of the government responsible as the author.

BILL ONLINE:
Note: A bill is a proposed law being considered by a law-making body.

Works Cited Format:
Government, Law-Making Body. Bill Title. Web Site Title, Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Government, Law-Making Body)

Works Cited Example (1):
California State, Legislature. Senate Bill 276. California Legislative Information, 13 Feb. 2019,


In-Text Citation Example:
(California State, Legislature)

Works Cited Example (2):
Note: In the example below, the numbers of Congress and the bill at the end of the citation are optional.


In-Text Citation Example:
(United States, Congress, Senate.)
FEDERAL LAW (ACT) ONLINE:

Works Cited Format:
Government, Law-Making Body. Public Law Number. Publication, Volume, Date, Pages, Web Site, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Government, Law-Making Body)

Works Cited Example:


In-Text Citation Example:
(United States, Congress)

COURT CASE ONLINE:

Works Cited Format:
Government, Court. Case Name. Date of Decision. Web Site Title, Publisher, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Government, Court)

Works Cited Example:
United States, Supreme Court. Penry v. Lenaugh. 26 June 1989. Legal Information Institute, Cornell U Law School,


In-Text Citation Example:
(United States, Supreme Court.)
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT ONLINE (DIFFERENT AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER):
Note: If the author is a government agency that is not also the publisher, list the government and then the agency.

Works Cited Format:
Government, Agency. “Document Title.” Web Site Title, Publisher, Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Government, Agency)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(United States, Patent and Trademark Office.)

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT ONLINE (SAME AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER):
Note: If the author is an organization or government agency that is also the publisher, begin with the source’s title. Include the government or department of which the agency is a part.

Works Cited Format:
“Document Title.” Web Site Title, Publisher/Agency, Publisher/Government Department, Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(“Document Title.”)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(“Immigration”)

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COMMUNICATION

LECTURE:

Works Cited Format:
    Speaker’s Last Name, First name. Title or Description. Date, Location.

In-Text Citation Format:
    (Speaker’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:
    DeFoe, Daniel. Class lecture. 10 Mar. 2021, Sierra College, Rocklin, CA.

In-Text Citation Example:
    (DeFoe)

TED TALK:

Works Cited Format:
    Speaker’s Name. “Title.” Web Site, Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
    (Speaker’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
    (Schwartz)

PERSONAL INTERVIEW:

Works Cited Format:
    Interviewee’s Last Name, First Name. Description. Interview Date.

In-Text Citation Format:
    (Interviewee’s Last Name)
Works Cited Example:
  Rodriguez, David. E-mail interview with Cynthia Ma. 10 Sept. 2021.
  OR

In-Text Citation Example:
  (Rodriguez)

E-MAIL MESSAGE:
Note: If you are the recipient of the e-mail, you may refer to yourself by name or as author (not italicized).

Works Cited Format:
  Author’s Last Name, First Name. E-mail to Recipient’s First and Last Names OR the
  author (if you are the recipient). Date Sent.

In-Text Citation Format:
  (Author’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:
  Stephens, John E. E-mail to Mary Gonzalez. 14 Feb. 2020.
  OR
  Stephens, John E. E-mail to the author. 14 Feb. 2020.

In-Text Citation Example:
  (Stephens)

BLOG:

Works Cited Format:
  Author’s Last Name, First name. “Blog Title.” Blog Site, Date Uploaded, URL. Blog.

In-Text Citation Format:
  (Author’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:
  Stewart, Deborah J. “Getting Ready for Back to School.” Teach Preschool, 3 Aug. 2021,

In-Text Citation Example:
  (Stewart)
**TWEET:**

*Note:* If an online handle differs from the author’s account name, supply the handle in brackets; if it is the same, you may omit it (see Example 1 below). However, if you do not have the URL available, retain the online handle (see Example 2 below).

**Works Cited Format:**

Author’s Last Name, First Name [Online Handle]. “Entire Tweet.” *Twitter*, Date and time, URL.

**In-Text Citation Format:**

(Author’s Last Name)

**Works Cited Example 1:**

Obama, Barack. “We don’t give up, we get up. We innovate; we adapt; we learn new skills. We keep going. #JobsNow.” *Twitter*, 12 Feb. 2013, [www.twitter.com/barackobama/status/301746005584531456](http://www.twitter.com/barackobama/status/301746005584531456).

**Works Cited Example 2:**

Obama, Barack [@BarackObama]. “We don’t give up, we get up. We innovate; we adapt; we learn new skills. We keep going. #JobsNow.” *Twitter*, 12 Feb. 2013.

**In-Text Citation Example for 1 & 2:**

(Obama)

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**WORKS OF ART**

**WORK OF VISUAL ART:**

**Works Cited Format:**

Artist’s Last Name, First Name. *Artwork Title*. Composition Date, Museum or Institution, City of Museum or Institution.

**In-Text Citation Format:**

(Artist’s Last Name)

**Works Cited Example:**

In-Text Citation Example:
(Picasso)

WORK OF ART IN A BOOK:

Works Cited Format:
Artist’s Last Name, First Name. Artwork Title. Artwork Date. Book Title, by Author of Book’s First and Last Names, Edition, Publisher, Year, Page.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Artist’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Picasso)

WORK OF ART ONLINE OR IN A DATABASE:

Works Cited Format:
Artist’s Last Name, First name. Artwork Title. Artwork Date. Web Site or Database, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Artist’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Picasso)
PERFORMING ARTS

Note: For In-text citations of sound and video recordings; if citing a particular section of a recording, write the time stamp.

VERSE PLAY

Works Cited Format:
Author Last Name, First Name. Play Title. Original publication year. Publisher, Year.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Playwright Last Name, act.scene.lines)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Shakespeare 2.1.14-15)

LIVE PERFORMANCE:

Works Cited Format:
Title. Important Contributors’ Roles and First and Last Names, Date, Venue, Rocklin.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Title)

Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Jazz Night)

SOUND RECORDING:

Works Cited Format:
Performer. “Song or Piece Title.” Album Title, Publisher, Year Issued.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Performer’s Last Name) OR (Performer’s Last Name Timestamp)
Works Cited Example:

In-Text Citation Example:
(Clarkson) OR (Clarkson 02:44-50)

**SOUND RECORDING STREAMED ON AN APP:**

Works Cited Format:
Performer’s Last Name, First Name. “Song or Piece Title.” Album Title, Publisher, Date.

*Name of app.*

In-Text Citation Format:
(Performer’s Last Name) OR (Performer’s Last Name Timestamp)

Works Cited Example:

*Spotify app.*

In-Text Citation Example:
(Brubeck) OR (Brubeck 01:15-17)

**SONG LYRICS ONLINE:**

*Note:* Original composition date is optional and only included if relevant.

Works Cited Format:
Writer’s Last Name, First Name. Lyrics to “Song Title.” Original Composition Date. Web

*Site Title*, Publisher of Web Site, Date, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(Writer’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example:
Key, Francis Scott. Lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner." 1814. National Museum of
American History, Smithsonian Institution, 2012,
amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/the-lyrics.aspx.
In-Text Citation Example:

(Key)

**TELEVISION EPISODE OR RADIO BROADCAST (PODCAST) ONLINE:**

**Works Cited Format:**

“Episode Title.” Program Title, Important Contributors’ First and Last Names, season, episode, Network, Date, URL.

**In-Text Citation Format:**

(“Episode Title”) OR (“Episode Title” Timestamp)

**Works Cited Example:**

“Billy the Kid.” American Experience, narrated by John Maggio, directed by Michael Murphy, season 24, episode 1, PBS, 19 Feb. 2013,

[pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANEXPERIENCE/films/billy/player/](http://pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANEXPERIENCE/films/billy/player/).

**In-Text Citation Example:**

(“Billy the Kid”) OR (“Billy the Kid” 02:17)

**MOVIE:**

*Note:* If you view a movie on an app, such as Netflix or Hulu, include the app name at the end (the app is considered a container for the film).

**Works Cited Format:**

Title. Important Contributors’ Roles with First and Last Names, Publisher, Year. Name of app.

**In-Text Citation Format:**

(Title) OR (Title Timestamp)

**Works Cited Example:**


**In-Text Citation Example:**

(Dark Knight 00:45:22-46:14)
VIDEO ON A VIDEO-SHARING WEB SITE LIKE YOUTUBE:

Works Cited Format 1:
“Video Title.” Web Site Title, uploaded by Person or Organization that Uploaded Video, Date of Upload, URL.

In-Text Citation Format:
(“Video Title”)

Works Cited Example 1:

In-Text Citation Example 1:
(“How Corporations”)

Note: If a video features a primary creator, such as a performer, it may be appropriate to include their name at the beginning of the source.

Works Cited Format 2:
Performer’s Last Name, First Name. “Video Title.” Web Site Title, uploaded by Person or Organization that Uploaded Video, Date of Upload, URL. Video.

In-Text Citation Format 2:
(Performer’s Last Name)

Works Cited Example 2:

In-Text Citation Example 2:
(Mitchell)
**VIDEO ON A WEB SITE (NOT A VIDEO-SHARING WEB SITE):**

Note: A video's title may be placed in quotation marks if it is part of a Web site and has not been published as an independent work.

**Works Cited Format:**

“Video Title.” *Web Site Title*, Date, URL.

**In-Text Citation Format:**

(“Video Title”)

**Works Cited Example:**


**In-Text Citation Example:**

(“Mental Shortcuts”)

**VIDEO GAME:**

**Works Cited Format:**

*Game Title*. Version, Developer, Publication Date.

**In-Text Citation Format:**

(*Game Title*)

**Works Cited Example:**

*Minecraft*. Version 1.17, Mojang Studios, 8 June 2021.

**In-Text Citation Example:**

(*Minecraft*)
FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT THE WRITING CENTER
Rocklin Campus
Learning Commons, LRC 2nd Floor
(916) 660-7230
E-mail: writingcenter@sierracollege.edu

VISIT THE WRITING CENTER WEB PAGE
Go to the Sierra College home page at www.sierracollege.edu and click Student Services. Under Academic Help, click Writing Center.

TO DOWNLOAD THIS TERM PAPER HANDBOOK
Go to the Sierra College home page at www.sierracollege.edu and click Student Services. Under Academic Help, click Writing Center. Scroll down, and click Writing Center Handouts.

The Sierra Writing Center's revised Term Paper Handbook for MLA Format includes:

- Many examples
- Easy-to-read labels
- Models for electronic sources