University of New Hampshire
Connors Writing Center

MLA 9th Edition

MLA style is used primarily in the liberal arts and the humanities. It provides writers with a system for referencing their sources through parenthetical citations that emphasize the page number and uses a Works Cited page.

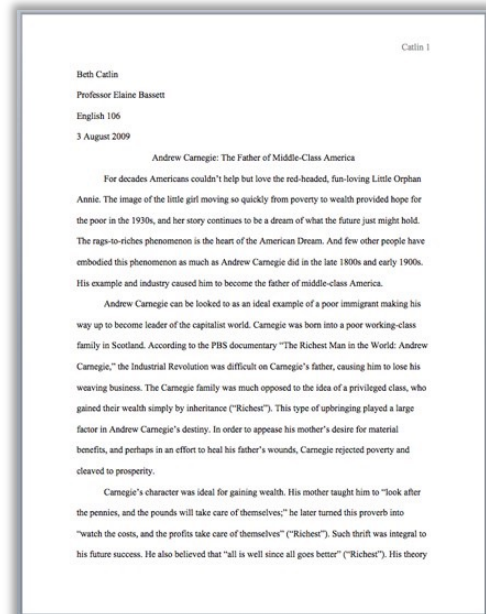## General Format

MLA papers will use white 8.5 x 11-inch paper and margins will be 1-inch on all sides. Font must be legible, between 10- and 12-point size, and double spaced. Each page will have a header on the upper right corner of each page after the title page that includes the author's last name and the page number. Each paragraph will be indented on half inch on the left.

First Page of the Paper

- In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, and the date. Be sure to use double space.

- Double space again and center the title. Do not underline y our title or put in the quotation marks.

- Double space between the title and the first line of the text.

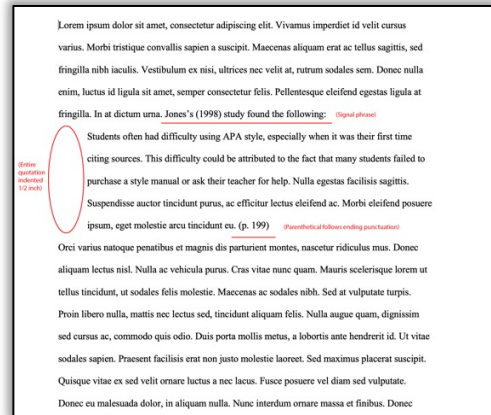   **See the example on the right from OWL.Purdue.edu**

In-Text Citations

MLA is a parenthetical documentation style, meaning the references appear within the sentence of the body of the essay like this: (Smith 3).

Two pieces of information must be included in the in-text citation:

1. The author's last name
2. The page number(s)

Text of four or more lines of prose or three or more typed lines of poetry will utilize block quote format, which will indent the left margin an additional one half of an inch. There are no quotations with a block quote. See the example to the right from OWL.Purdue.edu.
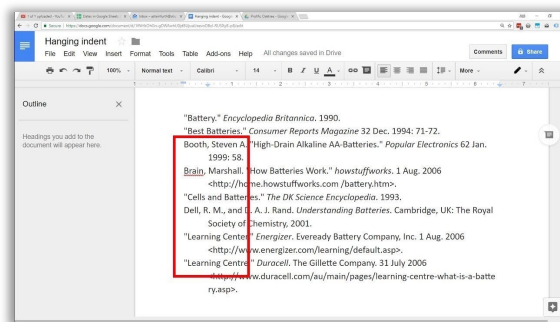

Three Ways to Incorporate Citations

1. **At the end of a sentence:** Researchers have pointed out that the lack of trained staff is a common barrier to providing adequate health education and services (Weist & Chrostodulu 43).

2. **Including a signal phrase with the author's name using a summary or paraphrase:** According to Fisher, health education is required for high school graduation in Florida (103).

3. **Direct quotations:** Lopez found that "the effect disappeared within minutes" (311).

Works Cited Page

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your paper.

- It will have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.

- Label the page Works Cited, centered at the top of the page. Do not italicize, bold, underline, or occlude in quotation marks the words Works Cited.

- Only the title should be centered. The citation entries themselves should be aligned with the left margin.

- Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.

- All entries should be formatted with a hanging indent. Do this by indenting the second and subsequent lines of individual entries by 0.5 inches. See example below.

- All works cited entries end with a period.

<u>**Sample Works Cited Entries**</u>

Books with 1-2 Authors
Author's last name, first name. *Book Title.* City of Publication, Publisher, publication year.

> <u>Example</u>: Tan, Amy. *The Bonesetter's Daughter.* New York City, Putnam, 2001.

Organization as the Author
A corporate author may be a commission, a committee, or any group whose individual members are not identified on the title page. List the names of corporate authors in the place where an author's name typically appears at the beginning of the entry.

> <u>Example</u>: American Allergy Association. *Allergies in Children.* New York City, Random House, 1998.

Book with More Than One Author
When a book has two authors, order the authors in the same way they are presented in the book. Start by listing the first name that appears on the book in last name, first name format; subsequent author names appear in normal order (first name last name).

> <u>Example</u>; Gillespie, Paula and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring.* Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

If there are three or more authors, list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (Latin for "and others") in place of subsequent authors' names.

> <u>Example</u>: Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition.* Utah State UP, 2004.

Chapter in an Edited Book
Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

> <u>Example</u>: Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*, edited by Ben Rafoth, Heinemann, 2000, pp. 24-25.

Journal Article
Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, Pages.

> <u>Example</u>: Bagchi Alkanda, "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.

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Page on a Website
For an individual page on a website, list the author or alias if known, followed by an indication of the specific page or article being referenced. Usually, the title of the page or article appears in the header at the top of the page. Follow this with the information covered above entire websites. If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.

<u>Example</u>: Levine, Joshua. "The Education of a Bomb Dog." *The Smithsonian Magazine*, http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/the-education-of-a-bomb-dog-4945104/, Accessed 29 June 2022.

Reference
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style_introduction.html

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