Randolph MLA Citation Guide
In-Text Citations and Works Cited Pages

Formatting Points to Remember

Pay special attention to both capitalization and punctuation when creating both your in-text citations and your Works Cited entries. The examples here illustrate the correct punctuation and capitalization.

Works cited pages are double-spaced. The second line is indented 5-7 spaces, or with a ½ inch tab. Margins should be 1” all around.

In-text citations are not always necessary. If it is easier on the reader to include reference material in the body of the work, do it that way. As long as credit is being given to the author/artist, it is not plagiarism. Examples are given below.

Make sure all of your in-text citations are listed on your Works Cited page.

When in doubt, cite it.

If you are still unsure of how to cite something, ask a librarian!

Books

Books with one author or one editor

In-text: “Oddly, that pain and fear became the fuel in my tank” (Apatow 205).


Books with more than one author or editor

In-text: “The Poet, gentle creature as he is, hath, like the Lover, his unruly times;” (Wordsworth, Abrams & Gill 37).

If your very next quote is from the same book, you may omit the author's name.

In-text: “With me is now such passion, to be blamed no otherwise than as it lasts too long” (37).


Multiple Titles by the same author – indicate title in citation

In-text: Unlike his character Tom Sawyer, Twain’s Huckleberry Finn experiences terror when his father “chased me round and round the place with a claspknife” (Twain, *Huckleberry* 51).

Note the book title may be shortened in the citation for easier reading.

Essays in books with no authors, such as anthologies

*In-text:* “It seems clear that *Lord Jim* has the closest to universal appeal” (“Joseph Conrad” 217).


Quoted Information within Books

*In-text:* Garry Shandling states, “when we were doing *Larry Sanders*, it was all about life and the question of self” (qtd. in Apatow 113).


Corporate Authors

*In-text:* “Men should eat more broccoli” (Am. Med. Assoc. 12).

*Note the corporate author may be abbreviated for easier reading. Sometimes it reads better to include the corporate author in your sentence and give the page number in the citation.*

*In-text:* According to a recent study by the American Medical Association, men should eat more broccoli (12).


Plays – use numbers to refer to acts, scenes and sometimes verses, largest to smallest

*In-text:* In *A Street Car Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams uses alcohol abuse to indicate chaos (1.3).

In *Othello*, Iago states “O, beware, my lord, of jealousy! It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on” (3.3.195-200).

*Make sure you cite the exact edition you are quoting from in your Works Cited page so the reader may find the quote on their own.*


*In the works cited page, citations are listed in alphabetical order by author. When there is no author, the first word of the title is used.*
Sacred Texts – include title, edition, chapter and verse

In-text: "As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people" (Holy Bible: KJV Proverbs 28.15).

"It is God who sends forth the winds; they raise up the clouds…” (The Qur’an: Oxford 30 Al-Rum 48).


In this case, N.p. and n.p. stand for no place and no publisher because that information is not available. Derek Shaver is the compiler (comp.).


Scholarly Journals/Periodicals

Print Journals/Periodicals

In-text: “A legend recorded in the 12th-century chronicle of the abbey claims that Harold, on his way to Hastings in 1066, stopped at Waltham to pray before the Black Rood” (Parker 27).


Online Journals/Periodicals found in databases (ABC-Clio, JSTOR, etc)

In-text: “Upper-class men often wore gold bands around the head and many bands featured a central medallion” (Sherrow).


In this case, the date refers to the date the material was accessed.

Online Articles from Websites

Online articles with an author

In-text: “Lung cancer accounts for about 13 percent of all new cancers” (Spriggs).

Works Cited: Spriggs, Brenda. “What Do You Want to Know About Lung Cancer.”


Online articles with no author – use a shortened title

In-text: Applesauce can often be substituted for fat when baking (“Cut Calories”).

PDF from a website

*In-text:* “This means that a 10% increase in cigarette price leads to a 3% to 5% decrease in cigarette purchases” (Kearsley).


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Entire Website

*In-text:* Kathrine Aspaas brings her vibrant personality to all she creates, including her website.


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e-Book (Google Book)

*In-text:* Columbus died in 1506, a few months after his return from his fourth voyage (Campbell 10).


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Online Textbook

*In-text:* “By the time of Darius’s rule, about 2,500 years had passed since the first Sumerian city-states had been built” (Beck, Black, Krieger, et al. 103).

Other Online Sources

Online video or YouTube with creator and video title (shortened)

In-text: Gordon Ramsay is particularly fond of using vibrant spices with fish as illustrated by his best-selling clam dish. (“Spicy Clam Noodle”).


If you cannot find an author (creator) use the shortened title only.

In-text: One can clearly see the officer perform a leg sweep in the video (“Video shows Alabama police”).


Blog Post

In-text: The Bloggess’ sister Lisa plays heavily into the comic quality of her blog (Lawson).


Podcast

In-text: Sarah Koenig managed to bring to light many inconsistencies in the Maryland’s case against Adnan Syed (“Serial”).


Tweet

In-text: Author and speaker Glennon Doyle Melton dishes on her marriage in her new book (Melton).

Works Cited: Melton, Glennon Doyle (Momastery). “My new book is about sex, God, food, drugs & how the dirt & divine are inseparable-Pre order here.” 17 Feb. 2016, 9:30 a.m. Tweet.

Email

In-text: In her response to my e-mail, the author reiterated her dedication to gender equality in Norway (Aspaas).

Artwork/Image online

In-text: Some artwork is comical in nature (Pieter Brueghel the Younger, “The Flatterers”).

Often it reads better to include the citation in the text of your paper.

The Flatterers, by Pieter Brueghel the Younger, is very comical.


Other Miscellaneous Sources

Interview – name only

In-text: Huntsville has big plans to expand Big Spring Park (Battle).

OR Battle, Tommy. Telephone interview. 6 Apr. 2016.

Lecture – name only

In-text: “Interstitial fluid consists of water and contains dissolved substances, such as sodium, glucose, calcium, and proteins” (Ormond).


Government Report – use book format

In-text: Although the proportion of new PhDs in mathematics and computer science who were women declined slightly from 2002 to 2012, the total number of women earning doctorates in these two fields increased slightly during the same time period (Emrey-Arras, Godtland, Boretti 5).

Artwork/Image Print

In-text: The color used when depicting the women in *Two Girls* seems to enhance a sense of warmth between the two (Morisot).

If you use both the artists name and the title of the work in your sentence, no in-text citation is needed.

In-text: The color Morisot used when depicting the women in *Two Girls* seems to enhance a sense of warmth between the two.


Sculpture (Not image)

In-text: Rodin’s *Sorrow* creates a feeling of despair with detailed methods.


Film

In-text: The movie *Casablanca* highlighted the role played by an active Resistance Movement against the Nazi Party (Curtiz).

As in many cases, try NOT to use an in text citation when it interrupts the flow of your paper. Try this instead:

In-text: The movie *Casablanca*, directed by Curtiz, highlighted the role played by an active Resistance Movement against the Nazi Party.

Paper Format

The preparation of papers and manuscripts in MLA style is covered in chapter four of the MLA Handbook, and chapter four of the *MLA Style Manual*. Below are some basic guidelines for formatting a paper in *MLA style* taken from *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Seventh Edition*.

General Guidelines

- Type your paper on a computer and print it out on standard, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Double-space the text of your paper, and use a legible font (e.g. Times New Roman). Whatever font you choose, MLA recommends that the regular and italics type styles contrast enough that they are recognizable one from another. The font size should be 12 pt.
- Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks (unless otherwise instructed by your instructor).
- Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides.
- Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch from the left margin. MLA recommends that you use the Tab key as opposed to pushing the Space Bar five times.
- Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: Your instructor may ask that you omit the number on your first page. Always follow your instructor's guidelines.)
- Use italics throughout your essay for the titles of longer works and, only when absolutely necessary, providing emphasis.
- If you have any endnotes, include them on a separate page before your Works Cited page. Entitle the section Notes (centered, unformatted).

Works Cited