



MLA CITATION GUIDE (9th ed.)

Crediting your sources shows your research ethos and helps you avoid plagiarism. Include both **In-Text citations** and a **Works Cited** page to give proper credit.

In-Text Citations

In-text citations for direct quotes fewer than 4 lines are formatted using author-page style:

Narrative or Parenthetical Citation Example

According to Jones, “People often...” (24). [**Narrative citation** has the author’s last name in the sentence.]

As a study showed, “People often...” (Jones 24). [**Parenthetical citation** has info in parentheses.]

ONLINE SOURCE: [Purdue OWL, MLA section](#) “In-Text: The Basics”

Direct Quotes Citation Example

(include author last name and page number)

Direct quotes 4 lines or shorter are placed on the same line as your regular text, have quotation marks around them, and end with a period *after* the citation.

Direct quotes longer than 4 lines should appear in block format. The block quotation starts on a new line, is indented at 0.5 from left margin, does not use quotation marks, and ends with the period *before* the citation.

ONLINE SOURCE: [Purdue OWL MLA Section](#) “Formatting Quotations”

Page Numbers Citation Example

(include author last name and page number)

Direct quotes **must** have page numbers (no “p.” or “pp.” required):

Human beings have been described as “symbol-using animals” (Burke 3).

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (264).

ONLINE SOURCE: [Purdue OWL MLA Section](#) “In Text: The Basics”

Multiple Authors Citation Example

How to cite sources with multiple authors

2 authors (in-text): cite both authors at all times. Use “and” both in-text and in parentheses.

Smith and Jones found that ... (12). The researchers found that ... (Smith and Jones 12).

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3 or more authors (in-text): use only the first author's name and "et al." for the rest.

Smith et al. discovered that ... (12). The researchers discovered that ... (Smith et al. 12).

ONLINE SOURCE: [Purdue OWL MLA Section](#) "Formatting Quotations" - scroll down to "citing a work by multiple authors"

Secondary Sources Citation Example

Secondary/indirect citations of sources (a source within a source)

Reference the original author in the sentence, and use "qtd. in" plus the source you found the information in, within the parentheses:

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

ONLINE SOURCE: [Purdue OWL MLA Section](#) "Formatting Quotations" - scroll down to "citing indirect sources"

Works Cited

The following shows how a properly formatted **Works Cited** page—with examples of different kinds of sources—should look.

Book

One author:

Mantle, Hilary. *Wolf Hall*. Picador Press, 2010.

Two authors:

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Penguin, 2000.

Three or more authors:

Wysocki, Ann, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004.

ONLINE SOURCE In [Purdue OWL, MLA Works Cited: Books](#)

Journal article (with DOI)

Alonso, Alvaro, and Julio A. Camargo. "Toxicity of Nitrite to Three Species of Freshwater Invertebrates." *Environmental Toxicology*, vol. 21, no. 1, 3 Feb. 2006, pp. 90-94. *Wiley Online Library*, doi:10.1002/tox.20155. Accessed 26 May 2019.

ONLINE SOURCE: In [Purdue OWL MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources](#)

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Journal article (without DOI)

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, spring 2010, pp. 69-88. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/41403188

****Important Note:** URLs in MLA 9 should not include the <http://> or permalink.**

ONLINE SOURCE: In [MLA Style Center: Citations by Format](#)

Government Report, from website (same author & publisher)

Highlights from the Competition Bureau's Workshop on Emerging Competition Issues. Competition Bureau of Canada, 4 Mar. 2016, [www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/vwapj/cb-Workshop-Summary-Report-e.pdf/\\$FILE/cb-Workshop-Summary-Report-e.pdf](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/vwapj/cb-Workshop-Summary-Report-e.pdf/$FILE/cb-Workshop-Summary-Report-e.pdf).

Non-Government (NGO) Report, from website

Basic Facts on Universal Jurisdiction: Prepared for the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Human Rights Watch, 19 Oct. 2009, www.hrw.org/news/2009/10/19/basic-facts-universal-jurisdiction.

Video (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.)

Rubier, Jeremy, director. *Gui Martinez: A Short Film and Photo Essay*. Vimeo, uploaded by poweredby.tokyo, May 2017, vimeo.com/channels/staffpicks/216976160.

Slip Slip Knit (SSK). YouTube, uploaded by TheKnitWitch, 14 Feb. 2007, www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGwcYW3GG3M.

ONLINE SOURCE: In [MLA Style Center: Citing an Online Video](#)

Website (with and without author)

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003, www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/. Accessed 10 May 2006.

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.

ONLINE SOURCE: In [Purdue OWL MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources](#)

Further Resources:

Modern Language Association, 9th ed. (2020). *MLA style*. style.mla.org/.

Purdue Online Writing Lab (2021). *MLA Overview and Workshop*.

owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_overview_and_workshop.html.

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