MLA Style (8th edition) Highlights

MLA Style refers to a system of documentation often used in literature, languages, and humanities disciplines for writing a research paper. MLA stands for Modern Language Association, a global academic professional organization that has published the conventions and rules of this system in the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, and on the MLA website: https://style.mla.org.

MLA Style uses in-text citations in the body of a paper; each corresponds to an alphabetized list of works cited at the end of the paper. Use a citation when you quote, paraphrase, or summarize from a source. If you use multiple sources from the same author, include titles to distinguish between sources:

The narrator remembers, "While Henry was not around we talked about what was going to happen to him" (Erdrich 415).

How to Format a Paper in MLA Style

- Use a running head on the top right, consisting of your last name and the page number. Number all pages consecutively.
- The first page also serves as your title page. Your name, professor, course, and date should be double-spaced and flush with the top left margin.
- Double-space once and then center the title of the essay (do not italicize, bold or underline).
- Use a standard font (such as Times New Roman), font size (12), and one-inch margins throughout.
- Do not justify the right margin; leave itragged.
- Quotations that run longer than 4 lines must be "block" quoted, with a hanging indent and no quotation marks.

How to Format the Works Cited Page in MLA Style

- Position the Works Cited page at the end of the paper.
- Continue the pagination of the paper through the Works Cited page.
- Use the title “Works Cited” in the title position at the top of the page, centered.
- Alphabetize by authors’ last names. If no author is given, the title of the source determines the alphabetical order.
- Begin at left margin, double-space, and use a hanging indent of ½ inch.
- Include reference books, encyclopedias, and dictionaries in the Works Cited list.
- Include sources for illustrations, tables, graphs and figures in the list.

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Examples of Frequently Used Works Cited Entries

**Literature anthology**

**Peer-reviewed Journal Article**

**Article From a Database**

**Book with One Author**

**Book with More Than One Author**

**Newspaper/Periodical/Print**

**Newspaper/Periodical/Digital/Database**

**Dictionary or Reference Book**

**Television, Radio, or Film Broadcast**

**Digital Streaming/Archive**

**Illustration**

**Graphic Novel or Comic**

**Social Media**
@sherman_alexie. "I'm not that far from being a tribal elder." Twitter, 10 June 2016, https://twitter.com/Sherman_Alexie/status/741303912376897540.

**E-mail**