

MLA Citation Guide

In-Text Citations

When using MLA (Modern Language Association) style, you must place relevant source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase. There are two main ways to use the works of others in your paper:

Using a Quote

All quotes are placed in quotation marks. Place your citation at the end of the sentence, before the period. Include the author's last name and the page number(s):

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

If the author's name is used in the sentence, you do not have to repeat it in the citation:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Paraphrasing

The bulk of sources you use should be paraphrased. However, citing the source is the same as when you use a quote:

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Works Cited

According to MLA style, you must have a Works Cited page at the end of your research paper. Your Works Cited page must correspond to the items you cited in your paper's text.

Here are a few important tips for creating your Works Cited page:

- The Works Cited page is always on a separate page at the end of your research paper.
- Label the page Works Cited and center it at the top of the page.
- Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
- Sources are organized alphabetically by the author's last name.
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.

The Purdue OWL Online Style Guide is a great resource for citing resources using MLA: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Information and Examples from <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>