

In-Text Citation Cheat Sheet: MLA 9th Edition

Adapted from Purdue OWL

You will often include sources in your writing for college. For every source use in your paper, there should be a citation. This cheat sheet reviews the basics for citing your sources.

Basics of Referencing and Citing Sources

Introduce the author's full name once. Then, use just their last name for remaining references:

Kenneth Burke, in his book, *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*, provides a framework for understanding human motivation, communication, and social life. Burke argues that...Later, Burke exemplifies...

All in-text citations must include at least an author's last name that then corresponds to an end-text citation entry in the Works Cited page. End-text citations for Works Cited will be covered below. But here's a sneak peek at what the Works Cited citation will look like:

Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*. U of California P, 1966.

In-Text Citations (aka: formatting quotes in your paragraphs)

For print sources like books, magazines, scholarly journal articles, and newspapers, provide the author's last name and a page number in a parenthetical citation (aka: in parentheses):

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

BUT, if you provide the author's name in the sentence, you do not need to include it again in the parenthetical citation:

Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).

Notice: the period is placed **after** the parenthetical reference in the above two examples.

BUT, the period is placed **inside** the quotation marks if both author & page are in the sentence:

Early in his text, on page three, Burke describes humans as "symbol-using animals."

Short Quotations

For short quotations (that are four typed lines or fewer of writing):

- enclose the quoted text within **double quotation marks**
- provide the **author's last name** and the **page number** on which the quote is located
- place periods and commas **after** the parenthetical citation
- place question marks and exclamation points
 - **within** the quotation marks if they are part of the source you're quoting
 - **after** the quotation marks if they are part of your writing

According to Foulkes's study, dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (184).

Some say dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.

Jane Goodall questions, "What kind of difference do you want to make?" (14).

Is it possible that dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184)?

Long Quotations

For quotations that take up more than four lines, place quotations in a free-standing block:

- start the quotation on a **new line**, **indenting** 0.5 inches from the left margin
- maintain **double-spacing** and **remove the quotation marks**
- add parenthetical citation **after** the closing punctuation mark

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)

Reminder: Whether a short or long quote, include a complete entry on the Works Cited page.

End-Text Citation Cheat Sheet: MLA 9th Edition

Works Cited: Basic Rules



- Begin your **Works Cited page** on a separate page at the end of your research paper.
- **Label** the page “Works Cited” (but do not italicize or bold the words “Works Cited” and do not put them in quotation marks), and center the words at the top of the page.
- **Double space** all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
- Use a [hanging indent](#): Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches.
- **Capitalize** each word in the **titles** of articles, books, etc., but do not capitalize articles (*the, an*), prepositions, or conjunctions unless one is the first word of the title or subtitle: *Gone with the Wind, The Art of War, There Is Nothing Left to Lose*.
- Use **italics** (instead of underlining) for titles of larger works (books, magazines).
- Use **quotation marks** for titles of shorter works (poems, articles, chapters)
- List **page numbers** of shorter sources (articles, chapters) that appear in larger works (books, magazines, newspapers). For example, if your source is an article that appeared on pages 225 through 250 of a journal, list that page number range as pp. 225-250.

Basic Book Format

The basic form for citing a book on a Works Cited page:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.

Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*. U of California P, 1966.

When a book has multiple authors, order the authors as they appear in the book:

- The first author appears in last name, first name format
- Subsequent authors appear in first name last name format

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

Article in a Magazine or Newspaper (aka: periodical)

The basic form for citing a magazine or newspaper article on a Works Cited page:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, pp. pages.

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time*, 20 Nov. 2000, pp. 70-71.

Brubaker, Bill. "New Health Center Targets Uninsured Patients." *Washington Post*, 24 May 2007, p. LZ01.

Notice that the last citation above, from a newspaper, includes the newspaper's section (L). Notice the use of "p." for one page and "pp." for multiple pages.

Article in a Scholarly Journal

The basic form for citing an article in a scholarly journal on a Works Cited page:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, vol. #, no. #, Year, pages.

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "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.

Notice the inclusion of the volume number ("vol.") and issue number ("no.") in the above example. Most journals have both, but some just have one or the other. Use what's there.

For online journal articles, include a **DOI** (preferred) or URL at the end of the citation:

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "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. <https://doi.org/xxxxx>.

Notice, again, the use of "pp." before listing the range of page numbers of the source.

Page on a Website

The basic form for citing a website page (that has an author) on a Works Cited page:

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Page." *Website Name*, Day Month Year, URL.

Mazzei, Michael. "Rhetoric." <i>Ebsco</i> , 2021, https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/literature-and-writing/rhetoric

Note: Only the year was available. If no publication date is available, include an access date.

If **no** author is listed, use this basic form instead, starting with the page title:

"Title of Page." *Website Name*, Publisher (if different from website name), Date of Publication or Update, URL.

"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." <i>WebMD</i> , 25 Sept. 2014, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview .

Other Common Sources

Search online for "[Purdue Owl MLA Works Cited Other Common Sources](#)" to find out how to correctly cite other common sources such as

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|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| • interviews | • paintings | • song or album | • podcasts |
| • speeches | • sculptures | • films or movies | • social media posts |
| • presentations | • photographs | • TV shows | • PDFs, MP3s, JPEGs |

*For more info and the most current MLA guidelines, consult:
the Purdue OWL at owl.purdue.edu or the *MLA Handbook*, 9th edition (2021).*