In-Text Citations

The Modern Language Association (MLA) uses the author-page method of citing information in-text. A writer will cite their sources at least twice; the first will be the in-text citation, and the second will be in the Works Cited page. When using an author’s text word-for-word, the text must be presented in “quotes” along with the author’s last name, and the page number. Even if a direct quote is not used (paraphrase), a writer must still add the author’s last name and page number. Every reference that is cited in the paper must be listed on the Works Cited page.

In-Text Citation Direct Quote (books, articles)

“The major climate changes of the past all occurred because the climate was driven to change by some external change, which is typically called a climate forcing” (Romm 12).

OR

Romm states, “The major climate changes of the past all occurred because the climate was driven to change by some external change, which is typically called a climate forcing” (12).

Paraphrasing (books, articles)

Romm notes that major climate changes typically occurred due to climate forcing (12).

In-Text Citation Direct Quote (web-based publications and other media)

When a source has no page number, such as a Web page, no number can be given in parenthesis. For media with a runtime (such as music, a film, or a podcast), include the range of time referenced (hour:minute:second). The goal is to cite without interrupting the flow for the reader. Simpler is better.

In-Text Citation for Website Example:

Pitchfork.com describes Lindsey Buckingham’s songwriting on the Fleetwood Mac album Tusk as “seem to simultaneously admit trepidation and cast him as the aggrieved party; he seems, in an endearing way, oblivious to his own caveats, or how hey might dissuade another person”.

Creating a Works Cited Page Using the Core Elements in MLA 8

The 8th edition of MLA is meant to be flexible. Due to changes in access to information, core elements were identified and are used as building blocks to create citations for multiple sources in varying mediums. Each Core Element (shown on the left) should be followed by the punctuation (period or comma) shown.

It is important to note that a source may not contain all nine of the Core Elements. If you are missing a piece, simply move on to the next element and continue following the punctuation shown.
Containers

When a source is part of a larger whole, the larger whole is a container. For example, a magazine article is part of a larger whole—the magazine itself. The magazine is the container. Sometimes, a source will have more than one container. For example, if the same magazine article was found in a library database, the magazine is the first container (original source), and the library database is the second container.

Works Cited List Examples

Book


Book Chapter


YouTube Video


Journal


Journal Article found in Database

Example of 2 containers


Website


Extras

1. Works Cited page will be listed in alphabetical order by the first element featured in the citation.
2. Unless otherwise noted, your paper should be in Times New Roman font, 12 pt.

Notes


Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab has excellent articles on MLA’s 8th Edition.

Please visit: [owl.english.purdue/owl/resource/747/01](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01)