MLA Fast Guide

In-Text Citations and Works-Cited Entries

Options for In-Text Citations (Plus Special Situations)

Option 1: Author’s Name in Front, Page Number in Back
According to Naomi Baron, reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (194).

Option 2: Author’s Name and Page Number in Back
Reading is “just half of literacy. The other half is writing” (Baron 194).

No Author
Use a shortened version of the source’s title plus the page number.

No Page Number
Don’t include a page number, but still include the author’s name.

Hollimichel continues, “As we read, we construct the terrain of a book,” something that is more difficult when the text reflows on a screen.

No Author and No Page Number
Use a shortened version of the source’s title.

Despite an apparent decline in reading during the same period, “the number of people doing creative writing increased substantially between 1982 and 2002” (Reading 3).

Two Authors
Use “and” to connect the names of the authors.

Dorris and Erdrich write, “Monitoring Internet use is a dependable check on behavior” (2).

Monitoring Internet use keeps employees off the Internet (Dorris and Erdrich 2).

Three or More Authors
Use the first author’s name followed by “et al.”

Americans’ “passion for material objects reached a climactic moment in the 1880s and 1890s” (Burdick et al. 42).

Organization as Author
Use the name of the company or organization.

The United States Department of Labor reports that “4.3 million [are] currently unemployed” (62).

Over four million people are presently unemployed (United States, Dept. of Labor 62).

Item Order for MLA Work-Cited Entries (Plus Specific Examples)

In general, works-cited entries follow the pattern below. If a source doesn’t have a stated author, then simply start with the title. Titles of longer works or those containing smaller works appear in italics. However, titles of shorter works or those contained in a larger work appear in quotation marks.
Basic Format for a Book

Short Work in an Anthology or Textbook (with Two Editors and an Edition Number)

Article in a Scholarly Journal (Online Database)

Article in a Magazine or Newspaper (Web)

Article in a Magazine or Newspaper (Online Database)
BCB0DEB6G4F12PW/1?ACCOUNTID=1863.

Short Work from a Website

Video on a Website

Photograph on a Website

For an untitled photo, provide a generic description in place of the title.

Works Cited
The content of this handout was adapted with changes from the following sources:

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