

# MLA Packet

Eighth Edition (Most Current) MLA Formatting

## Section 1: In-Text Citations

### Two Options for In-Text Citations

#### 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).

### Special In-Text Citation Situations

#### No Author

Use a shortened version of the source's title plus the page number.

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).

#### No Page Number

Don't include a page number, but still include the author'

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*).

#### 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).

### **Indirect Quotation (Author Quoted by Your Source's Author)**

Name the author of the borrowed quote in the text. The parenthetical citation should begin with the abbreviation "qtd. in" followed by the author of your source, who will appear on the works-cited list.

Handa states that cherry blossoms display "beauty made sublime by transience" (qtd. in Valdez 23).

## **Section 2: Works-Cited Entries**

### **Basic Item Order in an MLA Work-Cited Entry**

In general, works-cited entries follow the same pattern.

Author. "Title of Source." *Title of Container*, other contributors, version, number, Name of Publisher, publication date, location.

Note: 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.

### **Special Works-Cited Entry Situations**

#### **Basic Format for a Book**

Eugenides, Jeffrey. *Middlesex*. Picador, 2002.

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

Desai, Anita. "Scholar and Gypsy." *The Oxford Book of Travel Writing*, edited by James Hetfield and Jimmy Fallon, 2nd ed., Oxford UP, 2013, pp. 251-273.

#### **Article in a Scholarly Journal (Online Database)**

Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." *The Georgia Review*, vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

#### **Article in a Magazine or Newspaper (Web)**

The Associated Press. "100 Years Later, Scarred Landscape from the Battle of the Somme." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 27 June 2016, [www.sfchronicle.com/news/world/article/100-years-later-scarred-landscape-from-Battle-of-8326785.php](http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/world/article/100-years-later-scarred-landscape-from-Battle-of-8326785.php).

#### **Article in a Magazine or Newspaper (Online Database)**

Yorke, Thom. "Kicking Screaming Gucci Little Piggy." *The Oxford Times*, 21 May 2016, pp. 18-21. *ProQuest*, [search.proquest.com/libsrv.yvcc.edu/2048/pqrl-docview/180092591/BCCB0DEB6G4FI2PW/1?ACCOUNTID=1863](http://search.proquest.com/libsrv.yvcc.edu/2048/pqrl-docview/180092591/BCCB0DEB6G4FI2PW/1?ACCOUNTID=1863).

#### **Short Work from a Website**

Greene, Jayson. "Radiohead: A Moon Shaped Pool." *Pitchfork*, 11 May 2016, [pitchfork.com/reviews/albums/21907-a-moon-shaped-pool](http://pitchfork.com/reviews/albums/21907-a-moon-shaped-pool).

#### **Video on a Website**

Burstein, Julie. "Four Lessons in Creativity." *TED*, Feb. 2012, [www.ted.com/talks/julie\\_burstein\\_4\\_lessons\\_in\\_creativity](http://www.ted.com/talks/julie_burstein_4_lessons_in_creativity).

### **Photograph on a Website**

Palmer, Amanda. *Neil Gaiman Zestfully Catapults Catfish into Trout Town*. 2019, *Literary Fish Photos*, [www.litfish.com/C.aspx?VP8=SearchResult&BEZD=3G5CAT68\\_P](http://www.litfish.com/C.aspx?VP8=SearchResult&BEZD=3G5CAT68_P).

For an untitled photo, provide a generic description without italics or quotation marks. Capitalize the first word of this description and any proper nouns.

Palmer, Amanda. Man catapults fish into a town. 2019, *Literary Fish Photos*, [www.litfish.com/C.aspx?VP8=SearchResult&BEZD=3G5CAT68\\_P](http://www.litfish.com/C.aspx?VP8=SearchResult&BEZD=3G5CAT68_P).

### **Works Cited**

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

*MLA Handbook*. 8th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers. *A Writer's Reference*. 8th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016.

## **Section 3: Integrating Sources in MLA**

### **Three Ways to Cite Sources**

#### **Quotation**

Record another person's exact words to preserve their accuracy or to relay especially vivid, well-phrased, or dramatic statements.

**As Beal and Hochman report**, "Children of divorce have no choice. If the parent with whom they live, usually the mother, has to or wants to work, the children must pick up some of the slack. It doesn't usually hurt them and, in fact, many adults of divorce . . . say that the arrangement worked amazingly well . . ." (23).

Note: When using a source, introduce the borrowed material with a signal phrase that includes the last name of the author and place the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence. You may include the author's last name along with the page number in parentheses if, for stylistic reasons, you choose to paraphrase or summarize material without direct mention of the author in a signal phrase.

#### **Paraphrase**

Restate another person's ideas in your own words. A paraphrase is usually a sentence or two, is used for portions of a work, and does not necessarily condense the original version the way a summary does.

Many people who, as children of divorced parents, were raised in a single-parent home acknowledge that they gained skills that helped them mature as adults (Beal and Hochman 23).

#### **Summary**

Concisely restate the main facts or ideas of a longer work: entire books, whole articles or essays, or portions of a work. When writing a summary, be brief, be accurate, and use your own words and style to express the idea. When summarizing an entire book, article, or essay, page numbers are unnecessary.

According to researchers, children living with a divorced parent may benefit from extra responsibilities they must take on, and often progress faster into responsible adulthood than peers raised by married parents (Beal and Hochman).

## Integrating Long Quotations

When quoting more than four typed lines of prose or more than three lines of poetry, indent half an inch from the left margin. Long quotations should be introduced by an informative sentence, usually followed by a colon. Quotation marks are unnecessary (because of the indented form), and the period is placed at the end of the sentence instead of after the parenthetical reference.

### Example of a Long Quotation:

In the article “Adult Children of Divorce,” Edward Beal and Gloria Hochman state the following:

Children of divorce have no choice. If the parent with whom they live, usually the mother, has to or wants to work, the children must pick up some of the slack. It doesn’t usually hurt them and, in fact, many adults of divorce, in retrospect, say that the arrangement worked amazingly well and propelled them on the road to competence and independence as an adult. (23)

This passage supports the findings of the Galifianakis study: children of divorce often grow up faster.

Note: Make sure the in-text citation matches a corresponding entry on the works-cited page, where you give the full publication information for each source:

Beal, Edward W., and Gloria Hochman. “Adult Children of Divorce.” *Parenting*, 13 Nov. 2015, pp. 23-27.

## The Quotation Burger

Using quotes in your paper helps support the points you are making, but if you don’t set up a quote properly, it can confuse your audience. Your readers need to move from your words to the words of a source without feeling a jolt. One helpful metaphor is a hamburger.

### The Top Bun

Use a signal phrase. A signal phrase prepares your readers for what is coming. Here are some phrases for introducing quotations:

X states, “. . .” (11).  
X believes, “. . .” (11).  
X says, “. . .” (11).  
According to X, “. . .” (11).

In X’s view, “. . .” (11).  
X writes, “. . .” (11).  
X explains, “. . .” (11).  
X argues, “. . .” (11).

### The Meat

The meat is the quote itself. Choose words and phrases that help support your ideas. Be sure to quote the words exactly!

### The Bottom Bun

You need to tell your reader why and/or how this quote connects to the point you are making in your paper. Here are some sample phrases for explaining quotations:

X is saying that . . .  
In other words, X believes . . .  
This passage reveals . . .

These words suggest . . .  
X’s point is that . . .  
X’s words show why . . .

### Examples of the Quotation Burger

Aristotle believes, “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it” (23). In other words, as educated people, we should be willing to listen to and respect other people’s thoughts and ideas, even if we don’t agree with them.

Harry S. Truman insists, “The buck stops here” (126). Truman’s words suggest that you should take responsibility for a mistake if you make one.

Abraham Lincoln notes, “No man is good enough to govern another man without that other’s consent” (55). Lincoln’s words carry a clear implication: it is arrogant and tyrannical for anyone to claim control over another as a natural state.

### Examples of Signal Phrase Verbs

acknowledges	admits	argues	believes
comments	confirms	declares	disputes
endorses	illustrates	insists	notes
points out	rejects	responds	thinks
adds	agrees	asserts	claims
compares	contends	denies	emphasizes
grants	implies	maintains	observes
reasons	reports	suggests	writes

## Section 4: Plagiarism!

Plagiarism occurs when you intentionally or unintentionally give the impression that words or ideas from another person are your own. The best way to avoid plagiarism—a serious academic offense—is to make sure *you* have something to say about your topic first. Then follow the conventions of summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting to *give credit* to the other people whose information you’re *sharing* with readers.



Beware of plagiarism! Cite your sources!

## Section 5: Page Formatting

The following examples of MLA page formatting are all in 12-point Times New Roman font and use double line spacing. This is the conventional style for MLA. Some instructors may allow other fonts, such as Calibri, but a 12-point font and double spacing remain standard.

## Page 1 in MLA Format

Doolots 1

Chili Doolots

D. Forrest

English 102

6 June 2016

### Blue Harvest

What is true happiness? Wealth. Power. Fame. Could it be as simple as taking pleasure in relationships with family and friends? What about being able to say that you are healthy both physically and mentally?

## Page 2 in MLA Format

Doolots 2

The need to belong is innate, yet society sets double standards. At our core we need “another soul to cling to, another body to keep us warm . . . someone to pour [ourselves] into” (Plath 25).

## Works-Cited Page in MLA Format

Doolots 6

### Works Cited

Plath, Sylvia. *The Unabridged Journal of Sylvia Plath*. Edited by Karen V. Kukil, Anchor, 2000.

“Sylvia Plath: Ted Hughes Interview 1961.” *YouTube*, uploaded by C Ja, 30 Apr. 2015, [www.youtube.com/watch=Vqhsnb66/Y8e](http://www.youtube.com/watch=Vqhsnb66/Y8e).

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