MLA (Modern Language Association) Style formatting is often used in various humanities disciplines.
MLA dictates:

• Document Format
• In-text citations
• The Works Cited (a list of all sources used in the paper)
An MLA Style Paper should:

• Be typed on white 8.5“ x 11“ paper
• Double-space everything
• Use 12 pt. Times New Roman (or similar) font
• Leave only one space after punctuation
• Set all margins to 1 inch on all sides
• Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch
An MLA Style Paper should:

- Have a header with page numbers located in the upper right-hand corner
- Use *italics* for titles
- Have a separate page the Works Cited page
The first page of an MLA Style paper will:

- Have **no title page**
- **Double space** everything
- **List your name, your instructor's name, the course, and date** in the upper left-hand corner
- **Center the paper title** (use standard caps but no underlining, italics, quote marks, or bold typeface)
- **Create a header** in the upper right corner at half inch from the top and one inch from the right of the page (list **your last name and page number** here)
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Dr. J. Austen
ENGL 106
12 October 2008

Building a Dream: Reasons to Expand Ross-Ade Stadium

During the 2000 football season, the Purdue Boilermakers won the Big Ten Conference Title, earned their first trip to the Rose Bowl in thirty-four years, and played every game in front of a sold-out crowd. Looking ahead...
Why we cite:

• Show you have done proper research
• Reader can track down the source
• Give credit to the original thinker/writer
• Avoid plagiarism
Citing means you show where you got the information.

What we cite:

• Exact Words
• Ideas or Theories
• Images, Tables, Graphs
• Facts and Figures
Within the text MLA uses parenthetical citations:

- The format of parenthetical citations depends on the medium (e.g. Print, Web, DVD, etc.)
- Parenthetical citations also depend on the source’s entry in the Works Cited page
- The signal word in the text is the first thing in the corresponding Works Cited entry
In-text Example:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263). Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Wordsworth 263). Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

For the following Print Source


If the essay provides a signal word or phrase—usually the author’s last name—the citation does not need to also include that information.

Example:
Humans have been described by Kenneth Burke as “symbol using animals” (3). VS.
Humans have been described as “symbol-using animals” (Burke 3).
In-text Example, **citing a work with no known author:**

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change…” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).
Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

Classic & Literary Works with Multiple Editions

*In-text Example:*

Marx and Engels described human history as marked by class struggles (79; ch. 1).

Authors with Same Last Names

*In-text Example:*

Although some medical ethicists claim that cloning will lead to designer children (R. Miller 12), others note that the advantages for medical research outweigh this consideration (A. Miller 46).
Work by Multiple Authors

*In-text Examples:*

Smith, Yang, and Moore argue that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).

The authors state “Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights” (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

Jones et al. counter Smith, Yang, and Moore's argument, noting that the current spike in American gun violence compels law makers to adjust gun laws (4).
Multiple Works by the Same Author

In-text Examples:

Lightenor has argued that computers are not useful tools for small children (“Too Soon” 38), though he has acknowledged elsewhere that early exposure to computer games does lead to better small motor skill development in a child's second and third year (“Hand-Eye Development” 17).

Visual studies, because it is such a new discipline, may be “too easy” (Elkins, “Visual Studies” 63).
Citing Indirect Sources

*In-text Example:*

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as “social service centers, and they don't do that well” (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Multiple Citations

*In-text Example:*

... as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21).
Sources from the Internet

*In-text Example:*

One online film critic has argued that *Fitzcarraldo* is “…a beautiful and terrifying critique of obsession and colonialism” (Garcia, “Herzog: a Life”).

*Corresponding Works Cited Entry:*

In-text Quotation Examples:

According to some, dreams express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.

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

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

Cullen concludes, “Of all the things that happened there / That's all I remember” (11-12).
Long Quotations, In-text Example:

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)
In-text Example for **Adding Words**:

Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states: “some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale” (78).

In-text example for **Omitting Words**:

In an essay on urban legends, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that “some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale . . . and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs” (78).
Works Cited


Basic Format of the Works Cited Page:
Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

Examples:
Article in a Magazine Format

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Title of Periodical Day Month Year: pages.
Medium of publication.

Example:

Article in Scholarly Journal Format

Medium of publication.

Example:
Web Source Format:

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). “Article Name.” Name of Site. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher). Date of last update. Medium of publication. Date of access.
Examples:


JPEG Example:

Always include the file format. For example:
- JPEG
- PNG
- TIF
- GIF
- PDF file
- *Microsoft Word* file
Where to Go to Get More Help

Purdue University Writing Lab Website

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/

HHS Library LibGuides

http://libguides.hackettstown.org/researchpaper
MLA 7th Edition Formatting Style Guide
Brought to you in cooperation with the Purdue Online Writing Lab

Additions and deletions to customize presentation made by S. Domick.