MLA Citation Quick Guide

This guide includes examples of in-text citations and Works Cited entries (sources listed at the end of a text). All examples follow the guidelines in the 9th edition (2021) of the MLA Handbook. For additional details on citing sources in MLA style, consult a copy of the Handbook and Using MLA Format.

In-Text Citations

The Modern Language Association uses references in the body of a paper to acknowledge the use of borrowed material. These references point to the Works Cited page.

Guidelines

Keep the parenthetical references brief. Insert the author's last name and a page number in parentheses after a statement: "A large percentage of the suicides in this category are centered in the New York City area" (Hyde 126).

Insert a page number in parenthesis if you include the author's name in a sentence: Hyde notes that "a large percentage of the suicides in this category are centered in the New York City area" (126).

Omit a parenthetical reference if you cite an entire work (rather than a specific section), and include the author's last name in your sentence: Throughout her book, Hyde argues that suicide among the young constitutes a national epidemic.

Examples

A work by an author of two or more works you use:

Last name, short title and page numbers:

(Grossman, Aesthetics 5)

A work by an author with the same surname as another in your Works Cited:

First initial (or the full first name if the initial is also shared) and page number: (J. Brown 317)

A work by more than one author:

Two authors: (Hyde and Forsyth 47)

Three or more authors: (Quirk et al. 96)

More than one work in a single parenthetical reference:

Separate each citation with a semicolon: (Kabotis 214; Perkins 58)

Books

One Author:


Two Authors:


More than Two Authors:


Essay/Chapter in a Book:


E-book (without a URL, permalink or DOI):


Articles

News Article (online):


Magazine Article (print):


Scholarly Article in an Online Database:


Additional Sources

Unpublished Interview:


Film Viewed on a Streaming Service:


Dissertation


Web Site Published by an Organization