MLA Referencing Style Guide

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REFERENCING

Referencing acknowledges the sources that you use to write your essay or assignment paper. Please see the section of this guide regarding intellectual honesty and plagiarism.

In-text citations are used throughout your writing to acknowledge the sources of your information. The full references for the citations are then listed at the end of your assignment paper in the Works Cited list.

**It is important to first consult your unit outline, lecturer or tutor for the preferred citation style for each unit you undertake.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

At Western Sydney University plagiarism falls within the framework of the Student Misconduct Rule and its associated guidelines.

Further information about the importance of academic honesty is available on the Library website.

ABOUT THE MLA STYLE

The MLA style is one of a number of styles of referencing or bibliographic citation that is used widely for academic writing, particularly in the humanities. MLA uses an author-page system of in-text citation, e.g. (Mullan 24), and a Works Cited list at the end of the document. The MLA style is very flexible, thus you may occasionally need to improvise by using other MLA reference examples to cite less common reference types. It is most important to be consistent.

This guide covers basic explanations and examples for the most common types of citations used by students. This citation guide is based on the *MLA Handbook (8th edition)*. For more information on the MLA publications see: [https://www.mla.org/MLA-Style/FAQ-about-MLA-Style](https://www.mla.org/MLA-Style/FAQ-about-MLA-Style). The Library currently holds copies of the *MLA Handbook (8th edition)*.

For further support, please contact the Library:

- Phone 02 9852 5353
- I:Cite [https://library.westernsydney.edu.au/main/guides/referencing-citation/i%3aCite](https://library.westernsydney.edu.au/main/guides/referencing-citation/i%3aCite)
IN-TEXT CITATION: REFERENCING SOURCES WITHIN THE TEXT

Throughout the text of your paper you need to acknowledge the sources you used to write your paper. Whenever you present a statement of evidence such as a quote, or when you use someone else’s ideas, opinions or theories in your own words (paraphrasing), you must acknowledge your sources. Some examples of how to cite sources within your paper are given below.

If you use the name of the author(s) in your writing, place the page numbers of the work in parentheses where there is a natural pause in the text e.g., at the end of a sentence.

Mullan described narration as... (40).

If you refer to a work in the text of your paper, place the author’s last name and the pages of the work in parentheses at the end of the sentence e.g.

The narration of works can be divided into two... (Mullan 40).

Note: When you summarise the general idea of a source in your own words, you must cite the author and page(s) as shown above.

If you provide a direct quote fewer than 4 lines, enclose the quotation with double quotation marks within the text. The page number(s) of the quote(s) should be provided in parentheses immediately after the quote. If both quotes in the same sentence are separated by only a few words, and are taken from the same page reference, place the page number at the end of the sentence only.

Mullan explained that at times “tone is all” (213) and should be “anti-solemn” (215).

If the quotation is more than four lines it should be displayed in an indented block (0.5 inches or 1.27 cm) without quotation marks. It should usually be introduced in your own words with a colon. Page numbers are placed in parentheses, but note that this is placed after the full stop in this case.

In *How Novels Work*, Mullan wrote:

> James is making an argument about a singular novel, but that last phrase is evidence enough of his disdain for the form in general. He expresses this elsewhere in his criticism and correspondence, notably in an extraordinary letter to H. G. Wells. In 1911 Wells had sent James a copy of his latest novel, *The New Machiavelli* (1911), which is narrated in the first person. (41)
When you refer to a whole work rather than particular pages, or when there are no page numbers available (e.g. website), provide more details in your writing such as the author’s full name, or the author’s surname and the title of their work e.g.

Mullan’s *How Novels Work* discusses the specific aspects of …

For further information on citations that do not have page numbers, see 3.3.3 in the *MLA Handbook (8th edition)*.

When you use more than one source for a statement that you write, the citation can be presented using semi-colons between works e.g.

...and a number of studies have shown identical results (Sanders 118; Smith 11-14).

If there is no author or the author is the publisher, then the title is used in text to refer to your source. For in text citations where a title is not placed in parentheses provide the main title (omit subtitles) in the first instance and then abbreviate if you are referring to the title often. When the title is placed in parentheses it can be abbreviated in the first instance. If the title starts with a noun phrase use it as the abbreviation (exclude initial articles a, an, the). If the title does not start with a noun phrase, use the word by which the title is alphabetised in the Works Cited list if it is enough to direct the reader to the correct entry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Titles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Use of the Internet by Householders, Australia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“An Offering to the Ocean in La Punta, Peru”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Faulkner’s Novels of the South</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Use</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Offering”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Faulkner’s Novels</em> [shortened to noun phrase]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Double Vision</em> [shortened to noun phrase]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information, see 1.2.3 and 3.2.1 in the *MLA Handbook (8th edition)*.
WORKS CITED LIST

In the MLA style the reference list is called Works Cited, however other titles may also be acceptable. A Works Cited list includes details of the sources cited in your paper. It starts on a separate page at the end of your assignment paper. Each item in the Works Cited list must have been cited in your paper.

All sources appearing in the Works Cited list must be ordered alphabetically by surname or by title if there is no author. Authors’ names should be provided as they appear on the source, therefore include first names and initials when available. Please also note that abbreviations may be used for some words in publisher names (see 1.6.3 in the MLA Handbook 8th edition). It is also acceptable to break the list of works cited into categories such as primary and secondary sources, or by source type.

You may sometimes need to include sources that are not cited in your paper but which supported your research. When you list non-cited sources together with cited sources the list is called Works Consulted. As with the Works Cited list, the items should be listed in alphabetical order.

References longer than one line should be indented on the second and subsequent lines of each entry. This is known as a hanging indent and starts a half inch (or 1.27cms) from the left margin.

Titles of books, journals and other independent sources are placed in italics, Article and chapter titles are placed within double quotation marks but are not italicised. All major words of a title should be capitalised.

Do not omit initial articles (a, an, the) from the beginning of a title in a works cited list but do not use them to place the title in alphabetical order.

More information on how to cite a source is available from the MLA website https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide/
**Example of a works cited list:**

**Works Cited**


**ELECTRONIC ITEMS**

When referencing electronic resources, it is necessary to provide details about the location of the item. A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) remains attached to a source even if a URL changes therefore MLA advises to use a DOI in your reference if one has been assigned by the publisher.

In the absence of a DOI include a stable URL (also called a permalink, bookmark or embedded link) in your entry if you have accessed the resource through a database that is not publically accessible, i.e. requires a login. If there is no option to retrieve a stable URL on the database page, then use the URL that is displayed in the address bar of your browser. When providing the URL, omit http:// or https://. The name of the database (if applicable) is provided in italics before the DOI or URL.

**REFERENCING SECONDARY SOURCES**

Although it is recommended that original sources be used whenever possible, sometimes you may want to include a quote, or paraphrase a quote, given by an indirect source e.g. source A that is quoted within another source B.

You should not cite source A as though you read it from the original source. You must cite source A through the secondary source B in which you read source A.

For example, the book you are using, written by Smith, provides a quotation by an author called Jones. In your essay you wish to use Jones’ quote either word for word within quotation marks or paraphrased. In-text you should acknowledge both the primary source (Jones) and secondary source (Smith) as follows:
Jones (qtd. in Smith 89) agreed that the experiment failed to confirm this hypothesis.

or

Jones stated that “despite conditions the experiment did not confirm the hypotheses” (qtd. in Smith 89).

Provide the details of the secondary source in your reference list:


**DIFFERENT WORKS OF THE SAME AUTHOR**

If you have references for multiple works by the same author, these are distinguished by the title of the work in-text and by publication details such as title and year in the Works Cited list.

|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|

*Note: The entries are arranged in alphabetical order by title in the Works Cited list. Author name in subsequent entries should be replaced by three dashes, except where the author is one of two or more authors of the work, in which case the name should be displayed.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-text citation</th>
<th>Jones (Assessing 36) stated...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jones (Forming 101) stated...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jones (Developing 48) stated...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Distinguish different works by the same author by including the title (or shortened form of the title) in the citation. Page numbers may follow title. However, different authors with the same surname can be distinguished in-text by initials e.g. J. Brown (35) or (C. Brown 45).*
# BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

## SINGLE AUTHOR

*Note: If a book has a significant number of illustrations and their participation is important to your research you may wish to give the illustrator’s name after the title. The same format applies for translators, editors etc. Give the name in the form as seen of the title page:*  
...of the Genome. Illustrated by Shirley Harland. ...  
To reference a single image see *Image from a Book*. |
|---|---|
| In-text citation | Andreasen stated that... (56).  
Or  
It is suggested that... (Andreasen 56). |

## TWO AUTHORS

*Note: Within each entry, author names should be listed in the order in which they appear on the source or as displayed on the title page* |
|---|---|
| In-text citation | Copstead and Banasik explains... (26).  
Or  
...and therefore... (Copstead and Banasik 26). |

## THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

|---|---|
| In-text citation | Schneider et al. showed that ... (72).  
Or  
...is demonstrated (Schneider et al. 72). |
### NO AUTHOR (INCL. DICTIONARY OR ENCYCLOPAEDIA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> For an authored dictionary/encyclopaedia, treat the source as an authored book.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-text citation</th>
<th>The Guide to Agricultural Meteorological Practices provides... (17).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This can be shown by... (Guide 17).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** To shorten a title in parentheses, always include the first word by which the source is alphabetically listed in the Works Cited list. Use a noun phrase if it is at the beginning of the title.

### CORPORATE AUTHOR

|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-text citation</th>
<th>According to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia figures... (3).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This can be seen to... (Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia 3).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Only terms that are commonly abbreviated can be used to shorten a corporate author in a parenthetical citation e.g. Department or Labour (Dept. of Labour) or Western Sydney University (Western Sydney U)

### EDITED BOOK

|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Note:** For two or more editors use 'editors'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-text citation</th>
<th>Craven discussed the successful...(6).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The film starred actors...(Craven 6).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### CHAPTER OR ARTICLE IN BOOK

**Works Cited list**


*Note: You do not need to specify the chapter names from a book that is written in its entirety by the same authors, however if you wish to emphasise the use of one chapter it would be given in the above format. Page numbers are not required, however providing these can assist your reader to locate the source of your information.*

**In-text citation**

Knowles demonstrated that...(45).

or

This study showed...(Knowles 45)

---

### CHAPTER OR ARTICLE IN AN EDITED BOOK

**Works Cited list**


**In-text citation**

Ferres discussed the television episode... (45).

or

The television episode... (Ferres 45).

---

### E-BOOK

**Works Cited list**


*Note: A URL is not required if a DOI is available. Add it to the end of the reference. If the book was accessed through a database, include a stable URL (also known as a permalink, bookmark or embedded link) after the database name. If you provide a URL omit http:// or https://.*

**In-text citation**

Mullan stated that...(40). ...Gunaratne presents a critical...50.

or

Narration is... (Mullan 40). ...handbooks that analyse...(Gunaratne 50).
## JOURNAL ARTICLES, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

The format for more than one author is the same for all sources including journal articles, therefore, refer to the examples for books in this guide.

### JOURNAL ARTICLE (PRINT VERSION)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: If the full name of the author is known but not given on the title page it can be added within square brackets.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Younger stated that the… (46).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>The Internet can be used to conduct a literature search (Younger 46).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### JOURNAL ARTICLE (FULL-TEXT FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: If a DOI number is available for the journal article, include it at the end of the Works Cited.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Jackson et al. found that… (7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>...a useful strategy (Jackson et al. 7).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (AVAILABLE IN PRINT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: If the article is separated across non-consecutive pages, give the first page number followed by a plus sign, leaving no intervening space e.g. pp. 5+. If a section name is required it is given as follows: ...Apr. 2009, Travel sec, p. 6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| In-text citation | Berkovic explained that handouts... (5).  
or  
It was suggested that handouts may not be sent (Berkovic 5). |

### NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE)

|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | Wentworth stated that...(11).  
or  
....and this demonstrates the need for a permanent base (Wentworth 11). |

### ARTICLE (FROM THE INTERNET)

|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | In a recent *ABC Science* article, Cooper stated that a ferocious ant...  
or  
...the ants may be able to help control toad numbers (Cooper). |

### NON-ENGLISH JOURNAL ARTICLE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | Von Der Luhe concludes that... (35).  
or  
...examines the poetics... (Von Der Luhe 35). |
### PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS AND SYMPOSIUMS

**Works Cited list**  

**In-text citation**  
At the conference on loan word phenomena, Chang et al. stated that...(23).  
or  
It has been found that...(Chang et al. 23).

### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS (FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE)

**Works Cited list**  
*Note: When conference proceedings are published as an article in a journal use double quotation marks around the title.*

**In-text citation**  
Bukowski stated that...(2274).  
or  
It has been found that...(Bukowski 2274)

### OTHER MATERIALS

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**Works Cited list**  
*Note: When an organisation is both the author and the publisher, skip the author element and begin the entry with the title then include the organisation as the publisher.*

**In-text citation**  
*Use of the Internet by Householders, Australia* found that...  
or  
...was shown in the census information (*Use*).  
*Note: If the title that is placed in parentheses does not begin with a noun phrase, provide the first word in the title if this is enough to direct the reader to the entry in the Works Cited list. For further information, see 3.2.1 in the MLA Handbook (8th edition).*
**BROCHURE**

Works Cited list


In-text citation

Buses run on a schedule...(*Transport Access Guide*)

or

The Western Sydney University *Transport Access Guide* for the Penrith campus shows that...

---

**GOVERNMENT REPORT (ONLINE)**

Works Cited list


Where organisations are both the author and publisher, skip the author element.

Where a government agency is the author but not the publisher begin the entry with the name of the government followed by a comma and name of the agency e.g. Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing...

In-text citation

The report *Ageing and Aged Care in Australia* reported that...

or

...was shown in the report (*Ageing*).

---

**IMAGE FROM A BOOK (OR OTHER MEDIA)**

Works Cited list


*Note: A description of the source can be added at the end of the Works Cited entry if clarity is needed.*

In-text citation

In Tschichold’s artwork “Frau Ohne Namen” it can be seen... (32).

or

“Frau Ohne Namen” shows... (*Tschichold* 32).

---

**IMAGE ON THE INTERNET**

Works Cited list


In-text citation

In the photograph (“Offering”) it can be seen...

or

“An Offering to the Ocean in La Punta, Peru”, pictured below, shows...

*A title that is not in parentheses may be abbreviated after the first in text citation*
### LECTURE (UNPUBLISHED) / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | ...found that neutrons... (Elliot)  
or  
In her 2015 lecture, Elliott discussed neutrons and... |

### PODCAST (FROM THE INTERNET)

|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | Atkin found that...  
or  
It was found...(Atkin). |

### THESIS / DISSERTATION (ONLINE)

|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | Fayadh showed that...(11-12).  
or  
It was found...(Fayadh 11-12). |

### VIDEO RECORDING, TELEVISION PROGRAM OR AUDIO RECORDING

Use descriptors such as video recording, television episode or audio recording

|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | The 1991 episode “Rules of the game” showed the ...  
or  
The episode could be described as... (“Rules”). |
**VIDEO OR AUDIO (FROM THE INTERNET)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>In the video posted to YouTube, Norton showed that a cat can be trained... or Training a cat requires... (Norton).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WEB PAGE / DOCUMENT ON THE INTERNET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Note:</em> If the source does not include a publication date, omit the date and include an access date at the end of the Works Cited entry. If you have found the date from a reliable external source, place the date in square brackets to show that the information did not come from the source. If there is uncertainty about the publication date provided, include a question mark after the date. For further information, refer to 2.6.1 in the <em>MLA Handbook</em> (8th edition). Always include details of authorship and publication date when available. For websites with no author and/or date, carefully consider the reliability and authority of the source before including it as a reference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In <em>Life in the Clickstream</em>, Este et al. suggest that... or ...it is necessary to develop an argument (<em>Developing</em>).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further assistance with referencing, please contact the Library on 9852 5353.