Examples of MLA-Style In-Text Citations & Works Cited Entries

What Should the Works Cited List Include?

Regardless of what the source is, an entry in your Works Cited list (MLA term for bibliography) should include as many of these elements as can be identified:

- Author’s name
- Title of the work (e.g., title of a book, reference article, periodical article, webpage)
- Title of the container work (e.g., magazine title, website title)
- Volume and issue number (for a periodical, if applicable)
- Publisher’s name (not typical for a periodical)
- Date of publication
- Name of database or website (if applicable and not given elsewhere)
- URL (for all online sources)
- Page number (for in-text citations ONLY, not the Works Cited)

The way these elements are formatted, and the order in which they are listed, may vary from one citation style to another, but you should do your best to identify and include each one. However, if you cannot find a particular element (such as an author’s name), leave it off—don’t make something up!

It is likely that in other classes, you may be asked to create citations that are formatted differently, or that include other elements, such as the date of access for online sources. Always follow the style guidelines specified by your teacher or academic field.

What’s Different About MLA Style?

The main difference between MLA style and Chicago style is that MLA uses in-text citations instead of footnotes. These citations are simpler than footnotes and generally only include the author’s last name (or title of the article, if no author is listed), plus the page number where the information was found (if the source is paginated, like a book).

About This Guide

This guide includes, and simplifies when necessary, the Modern Language Association (MLA) style of formatting for the most commonly used source types for history papers at USN. The examples given here may not match entirely with the citations formatted by the databases, by the Pocket Style Manual, by NoodleTools, or by another citation guide. The discrepancies among all these different citation generators was the primary reason for the creation of this guide.

Use this document as your guide if your teacher requests it, and use the Pocket Style Manual as a backup if you need to cite a source type that is not listed here. Yes, you may need to edit citations formatted by a database or by NoodleTools so that they match the examples given here. Ask your teacher or a librarian if you have any questions!
Examples of MLA-Style In-Text Citations & Works Cited Entries

Formatting In-Text Citations

A citation:

- should easily lead your reader to the same source in your Works Cited list by using the first word or phrase that appears in the Works Cited list: generally either the author’s last name or the title of the work (if no author is listed)
- gives the page number where the specific information was found (if it is from a paginated source, such as a book)
- appears every time you use information from a specific source
- typically appears at the end of a sentence, before the period

EXAMPLES:

…end of the sentence (Bowker 165).
…end of the sentence (Gourevitch and Morris 23).
…end of the sentence (Human Rights Watch 14).
…end of the sentence (“Architecture”).
…end of the sentence (Kranz).
…end of the sentence (Darnell and Manassa).
…end of the sentence (Pericles).
…end of the sentence (Claudius).
…end of the sentence (Mitra).
Examples of MLA-Style In-Text Citations & Works Cited Entries

Formatting Entries in the Works Cited List

A Works Cited entry:
- has a **hanging indent** (the first line goes to the margin; subsequent lines are indented)
- **does not** include a page number
- **appears only once** in the list
- is **organized alphabetically** by the first word of the entry (usually the author’s last name, but if no author is listed, this could also be the first word of the title, excluding “a,” “an,” and “the”)

**EXAMPLES:**

Examples of MLA-Style In-Text Citations & Works Cited Entries

BOOKS

Works Cited entries for books should include:
• author’s name
• book title
• publisher’s name
• date of publication
• page number (for in-text citation only)

Book with one author:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Bowker 165).

WORKS CITED

Book with two authors*:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Gourevitch and Morris 23).

WORKS CITED

*If the work has three or more authors:
Use “et al.” to indicate all authors other than the first. Example: “Hunt, Lynn, et al.”

Book with organizational author:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Human Rights Watch 14).

WORKS CITED
Examples of MLA-Style In-Text Citations & Works Cited Entries

ENCYCLOPEDIAS/REFERENCE WORKS

Works Cited entries for encyclopedia entries should include:
- author’s name (if listed)
- title of entry
- title of encyclopedia/reference work
- publisher’s name
- date of publication
- name of database or website
- URL
- page number (if using a paginated source; for in-text citation only)

Entry in a print reference title:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (“Architecture”).

WORKS CITED

Reference entry in an online database:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Kranz).

WORKS CITED
online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=101060&itemid=WE52&articleId=162170.
Examples of MLA-Style In-Text Citations & Works Cited Entries

PERIODICAL ARTICLES

Works Cited entries for periodical articles should include:
- author’s name
- title of article
- title of magazine, journal, newspaper, etc.
- volume and issue numbers (if given)
- date of publication
- name of database or website
- URL
- page number (if using a paginated source; for in-text citations only)

Article from an online database or website:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Darnell and Manassa).

WORKS CITED
Examples of MLA-Style In-Text Citations & Works Cited Entries

DIGITAL PRIMARY SOURCES

Works Cited entries for digital (online) primary sources should include:
- author of the primary source
- title of document
- title of container work (e.g., a book, a website)
- publisher of container work (e.g., a publisher, a university)
- date of publication in the container work
- title of database (if applicable)
- URL

Primary source from a database:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Pericles).

WORKS CITED

Primary source from a website:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Claudius).

WORKS CITED
Claudius. “A Discourse in the Senate.” Internet Ancient History Sourcebook, Fordham University, sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/48claudius.asp.
Examples of MLA-Style In-Text Citations & Works Cited Entries

WEBSITES (SECONDARY SOURCES)

Works Cited entries for websites should include:
- author of the webpage/article
- title of webpage/article
- title of website
- publisher of website (if different from the title of the website)
- date of publication or last update
- URL

Website:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Mitra).

WORKS CITED

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Includes examples from: