IN-TEXT CITATION BASICS:

**“Basic in-text citation rules**

In MLA style, referring to the works of others in your text is done by using what is known as **parenthetical citation**. This method involves placing relevant source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase.

**General Guidelines**

* The source information required in a parenthetical citation depends (1.) upon the source medium (e.g. Print, Web, DVD) and (2.) upon the source’s entry on the Works Cited (bibliography) page.
* Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page. More specifically, whatever signal word or phrase you provide to your readers in the text, must be the first thing that appears on the left-hand margin of the corresponding entry in the Works Cited List.

**In-text citations: Author-page style**

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. For 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).” (“MLA In-Text Citations: Basic Format”).

SAMPLE IN-TEXT CITATIONS:

One author: Even though she was one of the most widely read authors of the 1850's and 1860's, virtually no scholarship exists on E.D.E.N Southworth (Entzminger 34).

More than three authors: The overwhelming majority of environmental scientists agree that humans have accelerated climate change (Smith et al. 351).

No author or page number: 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").

WORKS CITED BASICS:

“According to MLA style, you must have a Works Cited page at the end of your research paper. All entries in the Works Cited page must correspond to the works cited in your main text.

**Basic rules**

* Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
* Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
* Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
* Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.
* List page numbers of sources efficiently, when needed. If you refer to a journal article that appeared on pages 225 through 250, list the page numbers on your Works Cited page as 225-50. Note that MLA style uses a hyphen in a span of pages.

**Additional basic rules new to MLA 2016**

**New to MLA 2016:**

* Entries no longer require you to state the medium.
* Writers now provide URLs for Web entries (again).
* If you're citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database, you should type the online database name in italics, and provide the DOI or permalink to the article.

SAMPLE WORKS CITED ENTRIES:

**Book:**

Basic Format:

Last name, First name. Title. Publisher, Year.

Example:

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. *Women and Economics a Study of the Economic Relation between Men and Women as a Factor in Social Evolution*. Berkeley: U of California, 1998. Print.

More than three authors:

Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004.

**Scholarly article from a database:**

Basic Format:

Lastname, Firstname. “Title of Article: Subtitle of Article.” Title of Journal, vol., no., Year, pp. Name of Database. DOI/permalink. Date accessed.

Example:

Warhol, Robyn. “Double Gender, Double Genre in *Jane Eyre* and *Villette*.” *Studies in English*

*Literature*, vol. 36, no. 4, 1996, pp. 857-75. *JSTOR*. 1 Aug. 2011.

**Webpage on Website:**

Basic Format:

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). “Title of Page.” Name of Site. date of resource creation (if available). URL. Date of access.

Example:

Russell, Tony, et. al. “MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources (Web Publications).” Purdue OWL. 20 Oct. 2016. https://owl.english.purdue.edu. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.

ADDITONAL RESOURCES:

LU Academic Support, Lower Level Page Library, has free tutoring and lots of handy writing books, most of which contain an MLA section.

Almost any first year composition course textbook will have a section on MLA basics with examples of how to format in-text citations and the works cited page. Look at the textbook’s table of contents and index to locate the MLA format section of the book. MLA sections of writing handbooks and textbooks are almost always organized in the same way.

Reference/Circulation desk at Inman E. Page Library

The Page Library also offers electronic citation guides: <http://libguides.lincolnu.edu/content.php?pid=359130&sid=2937158>

The OWL at Purdue MLA guide for in-text and works cited pages: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/>

The OWL at Purdue MLA overview slide show: <http://www.slideshare.net/debbielane2001/the-owl-mla-formatting-power-point>