

What is the MLA Referencing Style?

The Modern Languages Association of America (MLA) style is one of the most popular 'Harvard-type' referencing styles (*MLA is also known as *inline citations* or *parenthetical referencing style*). MLA citation style is based on the 8th edition of the "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" published by the Modern Language Association of America in 2016.

This style is generally used in humanities subjects including languages, literature, art, philosophy and music.

NOTE: When you are asked to use MLA style when referencing, always follow your department's and/or Lecturer's specific recommendations.

How to create MLA 'in-text' citations

The MLA referencing style uses the author's family name and page details for general in-text citation. When an author's name is mentioned in the text, the page number should be cited.

Examples:

- Variation in language with age may be due partly to the inevitable biological effects of ageing (Cook 169).
- Cook concluded that... (225).
- Described by Cashdan philosophies of learning (5) indicate that....

Citing more than one reference in a sentence

When you need to cite more than one reference in the same sentence, they should be separated with a semicolon. If two authors have the same surname, their initials should be used before their surname.

Examples:

- Language development is ... (Cook 225; Cashdan 8).

Citing a book with two or more than two authors

When referencing a book with two authors they all need to be cited. If a source has three or more author's then you can use et al. after first author's name.

Examples:

- There is a high degree of linguistic reinforcement ... (Maley and Duff 229).
- It is probably true that assimilatory phenomena are greater in casual than in precise formal speech (Graddo, et al. 46).
- Research suggests that college completion is tied to institutional revenues (Braxton et al. 16).

How to create a Gen AI MLA ‘in-text’ citation

Examples:

- The musical instruments in a live orchestra combine to produce a sound appealing to the ear ChatGPT responded to the prompt ‘Name the essential musical instruments in a live orchestra’, notably one of the most common instruments is the violin

How to create a Gen AI MLA image citation



Fig 1. Canva responded to the prompt ‘Create a dragon at the foot of a mountain’.

How to create your MLA Bibliography or Cited Works List

- According to the MLA Handbook, references within your text must clearly point to specific sources in the *Cited Works List* or *Bibliography* that appears at the end of your assignment.
- All sources are listed alphabetically according to the Author's surname. If there is more than one author, their names must begin with full forenames. If the cited source has no author just an editor or compiler, a comma has to be placed after the final name and **editor.** or **compiler.** added.
- The title of a reference also needs to be italicised and the first word of the title or subtitle, all nouns, verbs and adjectives need to be capitalized.
- Chapters of edited books, the title of journal articles or titles of poems from collected editions should be enclosed in quotation marks and not italicised.

A book with a single author/editor should be referenced in the following way.

- **Author/Editor Surname, Forename. *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication. Series title (if available)**

Examples:

- Cook, Vivian. *Inside Language*. Arnold, 1997.
- Cashdann, Asher, editor. *Literacy: Teaching and Learning Language Skills*. Basil Blackwell, 1986.

A book with two authors/editors should be referenced in the following way.

- **Author/Editor Surname, Forename, and Author Forename, Surname, *Title*. Publisher, Year.**

Examples:

- Maley, Alan, and Alan Duff. *Drama Techniques: A Resource of Book of Communication Activities for Language Teachers*. 3rd ed., Cambridge UP, 2005.
- Kennedy, J. and Gerald, Liliane Weissberg, editors. *Romancing the Shadow: Poe and Race*. Oxford UP, 2001.

NOTE: MLA requires using shortened forms of the publishers' name (e.g. Oxford UP instead of Oxford University Press) while omitting articles and business abbreviations e.g. Co., Corp., Ltd.

A book with more than three authors should be referenced in the following way.

- First Author Surname, Forename, et al. *Title*. Publisher, Year.

Example:

- Braxton, John M. et al. *Rethinking College Student Retention*. Jossey-Bass, 2014.
- Graddol, David, et al. *Describing language*. 2nd ed., Open UP, 2002.

A book chapter in an edited book should be referenced in the following way.

- Author of the chapter Surname, Forename. "Title of the chapter." *Title of the book/collection*, edited by First name and Surname of the editor. Publisher, Year, Page numbers of chapter.

Example:

- Blakeslee, Sandra. "The Mystery of Music: How it Works in the Brain." *Book of Language and Linguistics*, edited by Nicholas Wade and P. Lyons, 2003, pp. 141-148.

An eBook should be referenced in the following way.

- Author/Editor Surname, Forename. *Title*. Publisher, Year. *Online Library or Retrieval Service*, URL. Date of access.

Example:

- Scruton, Roger. *A Short History of Modern Philosophy: From Descartes to Wittgenstein*. Routledge, 2002. *EbookCentral*, www.ebookcentral.com. Accessed: 20 Feb. 2016.

A Print journal article should be referenced in the following way.

- Author of article Surname, Forename. "Title of the article." *Title of journal*, Volume number, Issue number, Year, Page numbers.

Example:

- Bangerter, Adrian, and Chip Heath. "The Mozart Effect: Tracking the Evolution of a Scientific Legend." *British Journal of Social Psychology*, vol. 43, no. 4, 2004, pp. 605-623.

An E-journal article should be referenced in the following way.

- Author of article Surname, Forename. "Title of the article". *Title of journal*, Volume number, Issue number, Year, Page numbers. *Name of Database*, URL. Date of access.

Example:

- Parker, Ian. "Helplessness in an adjacent psychoanalytic culture, Japan." *Psychodynamic Practice*, vol. 12, no.1, 2006, pp. 87-97. *EBSCOhost*, www.Ebscohost.com. Accessed 03 May 2016.

A Website should be referenced in the following way.

- Authors Surname, Forename. "Title of page." *Name of internet site*. Year of creation. URL of website. Date of access.

Example:

- Scaruffi, Piero. *A History of Jazz Music*. 2005. www.scaruffi.com/history/jazz1.html. Accessed 11 Mar. 2016.

NOTE: When referencing a journal article from an online database or other electronic source, the particular name of this source needs to be included in italics and date of access. <>.

A Musical score should be referenced in the following way.

- Composer's Surname, Forename. *Title*. Publisher, Year of publication.

Example:

- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. *Rondo: from Serenade, No. 10 K363*. Emerson, 2009.

NOTE: Published musical scores or librettos need to be treated like a book, abbreviations no. and op. should be capitalised. If the score is part of a series, this information needs to be included after the year of publication. When citing a musical score, the names of the composer need to appear first but for libretto an entry starts with name of librettist and the composer names follows the title.

A Poem in an anthology or collection should be referenced in the following way.

- Author of poem Surname, Forename. "Title of poem". *Title of anthology/collection*. Edited by or Compiled by First Name Surname. Publisher, Year. Page numbers.

Example:

- Longley, Michael. "Galapagos". *Selected Poems*. Jonathan Cape, 1998. 25.
- Carson, Ciaran. "Dresden". *Modern Irish Poetry: An Anthology*. edited by Patrick Crotty. Blackstaff PL, 1999. 308-312.

A Film or DVD should be referenced in the following way.

- *Title of film*. Directed by Director's name. Performances by Major performers Forename Surname, Name of distributor, Year of release.

Example:

- *Rear window*. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Universal Pictures, 2005.
- *North by Northwest*. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Performances by Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, and James Mason. Warner Home Video, 2000.

Gen AI Text Work Cited – List Entry

Example:

Your work cited list entry should appear in the following format: Prompt. AI Tool, Version, Publisher, Date, Location

"Name the essential musical instruments in a live orchestra" prompt. ChatGPT, 13 Mar. version, Open AI, 2 Mar. 2023, <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

Gen AI Image Work Cited – List Entry

Example:

Your work cited list entry should appear in the following format: Prompt. AI Tool, Version, Publisher, Date, Location

"Create a dragon at the foot of a mountain" prompt. Canva, Canva Free version, Canva, 3 Apr. 2025, https://www.canva.com/design/DAGiku-FvDk/qrfRqHeTQDd-LOPZIC8dyA/view?utm_content=DAGiku-FvDk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h05a7828611

Example of an MLA Bibliography (Works Cited List) in Alphabetical order:

- Bangerter, Adrian, and Chip Heath. "The Mozart Effect: Tracking the Evolution of a Scientific Legend." *British Journal of Social Psychology*, vol. 43, no. 4, 2004, pp. 605-623.
- Blakeslee, Sandra. "The Mystery of Music: How it Works in the Brain." *Book of Language and Linguistics*, edited by Nicholas Wade and P. Lyons, 2003, pp. 141-148.
- Braxton, John M. et al. *Rethinking College Student Retention*. Jossey-Bass, 2014.
- Carson, Ciaran. "Dresden". *Modern Irish Poetry: An Anthology*. edited by Patrick Crotty. Blackstaff PL, 1999. 308-312.
- Cashdann, Asher, editor. *Literacy: Teaching and Learning Language Skills*. Basil Blackwell, 1986. Cook, Vivian. *Inside Language*. Arnold, 1997.
- "Create a dragon at the foot of a mountain" prompt. Canva, Canva Free, 3 Apr. 2025, Canva, https://www.canva.com/design/DAGjku-FvDk/grfRqHeTQDd-LOPZIC8dyA/view?utm_content=DAGjku-FvDk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h05a7828611
- Graddol, David, et al. *Describing language*. 2nd ed., Buckingham: Open UP, 2002.
- Kennedy, J. Gerald, Liliane Weissberg, editors. *Romancing the Shadow: Poe and Race*. Oxford UP, 2001.
- Maley, Alan, and Alan Duff. *Drama Techniques: A Resource of Book of Communication Activities for Language Teachers*. 3rd ed. Cambridge UP, 2005. Print.
- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. *Rondo: from Serenade No. 10 K363*. Emerson, 2009.
- Name the essential musical instruments in a live orchestra" prompt. ChatGPT, Feb. 13 version, 2 Mar. 2023, OpenAI, <https://chat.openai.com/chat>
- North by Northwest*. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Performances by Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, and James Mason. Warner Home Video, 2000.
- Parker, Ian. "Helplessness in an adjacent psychoanalytic culture, Japan." *Psychodynamic Practice*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2006, pp. 87-97. EBSCOhost, www.Ebscohost.com. Accessed 03 May 2016.
- Rear window*. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Universal Pictures, 2005.
- Scaruffi, Piero. *A History of Jazz Music*. 2005. www.scaruffi.com/history/jazz1.html. Accessed 11 Mar. 2016.