

**Farmingdale
State College**
State University of New York

**WRITING
CENTER**

MLA ed. 9 Documentation

General Paper Format

Margins: 1” on all sides of text.

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt., is standard.

Header: Place your last name and the page number in the header in the upper right-hand corner of each page.

First page:

- On the left side of the page, at the top, insert:
 - Your name
 - Your professor's name
 - The class name
 - The due date
- Centered, on the line below the due date, include the title of the paper

Body of the Text:

- Left justified (uneven right margin).
- Double spaced, indenting the first line of each new paragraph.

Sample First Page

Brachs 1

Alastair Brachs

Professor Batton-Jones

English 101

19 October 2025

Characterization of Peppermint Patty

In-text Citations: Introduction

In-text citations are required whenever you have borrowed information from a source. You must cite the following in your text:

Paraphrases: the author's/source's ideas put into your own words.

Quotations: the author's/source's exact words, placed in quotes.

Statistics: percentages or other numbers borrowed from a source.

The most basic format for an MLA in-text citation is:

(Author's Last Name Page Number)

In-text Citations: One Author

The author's last name and the page number (when available) must appear in the in-text citation. Cite in either narrative or parenthetical style (but not both).

Parenthetical style: When the author's name is not used in the sentence, it must be included with the page number (when available) in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

Esperanza says of her difficult life, “we take what we can get and make the best of it” (Cisneros 33).

Narrative style: When the author's name is used in the sentence, the page number (if available) is placed in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

Cisneros writes, “we take what we can get and make the best of it” (33).

In-text Citations: Two Authors

The authors' last names, joined by the word "and," and the page number (when available) must appear in the in-text citation. Cite in either narrative or parenthetical style (but not both).

Parenthetical style: When the authors' names are not used in the sentence, they must be included with the page number (when available) in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

His success in baseball was based on his determination and love of the sport (Wright and DiComo 6).

Narrative style: When the authors' names are used in the sentence, the page number (if available) is placed in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

According to Wright and DiComo, the player was, "predisposed to a love of baseball" (6).

In-text Citations: Three or More Authors

The last name of the first author listed on the source, followed by “et al.” (meaning “and others”), and the page number (when available) must appear in the in-text citation. Cite in either narrative or parenthetical style (but not both).

Parenthetical style: When the first author’s name followed by “et al.” is not within the sentence, the first author’s name followed by “et al.” and the page number (when available) are placed in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

Many doctors feel unprepared to discuss the connection between health and nutrition with their patients (Krumholz et al. 1).

Narrative style: When the first author’s name followed by “et al.” is within the sentence, the page number (if available) is placed in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

According to Krumholz et al., “In recent years, there has been increased recognition in medical education of lifestyle factors' impact on health outcomes in chronic diseases and the value of integrating diet-related interventions into patient care” (1).

In-text Citations: No Authors

When the source has no listed author(s), a shortened version of the source's title, placed in quotation marks, and the page number (when available) must appear in the in-text citation. Cite in either narrative or parenthetical style (but not both).

Parenthetical style: When the source's name is not within the sentence, it must be included with and the page number (when available) in parentheses at the end of the sentence:

The article noted that, “The Department of Agriculture also released its own memorandum today to modernize and strengthen America’s wildfire prevention and response system” (“Department of Interior”).

Narrative style: When the source's name is within the sentence, there will only be a parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence if a page number is available:

According to “Department of Interior,” the Department of Agriculture was taking steps to diminish the occurrence of wildfires.

Works Cited: Introduction

In MLA style, all of the sources used in your essay must be listed on a page titled Works Cited. This page should:

- Be a separate page immediately following the main essay text.
- Have the title (Works Cited) listed in the center of the top line.
- Have all sources listed, with a left justification (uneven right margin).
- List the sources in alphabetical order by the first word of the entry.
- Use hanging indents (any line following the first line for each source is indented).

Works Cited: One or Two Authors

One Author

Format:

Last Name, First Name.

Example:

Cisneros, Sandra.

Two Authors

Format:

Last Name 1, First Name 1, and First Name 2 Last Name 2.

Example:

Wright, David, and Anthony DiComo.

Works Cited: Three+ Authors or No Author

Three or More Authors

Format:

Last Name 1, First Name 1, et al.

Example:

Krumholz, Sarah, et al.

No Author

Format:

Title of the Source (in italics for a book, in quotation marks for an article or webpage).

Example:

“Department of Interior and Agriculture Announce Wildlife Fire Service Plan to Modernize Federal Wildlife Response.”

Works Cited: Standard Format

Book

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.

Example:

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. Vintage, 1991.

Journal Article

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, vol. volume number, no. issue number, date of publication. *Database Name (if available)*, DOI or URL (if available).

Example:

Krumholz, Sarah, et al. "Cooking with the Curriculum: A Pilot Culinary Medicine Program at the Larner College of Medicine." *BMC Medical Education*, vol. 25, no. 1, 11 Apr. 2025. *Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12909-025-07103-z>.

Works Cited: Standard Format

Website (with Author)

Format:

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article or Page." *Title of Website*, Date of Publication (if available), DOI or URL (if available). Accessed Date (if there is no date of publication).

Example:

Barnfield, Marie. "Lady Anne Neville (Wife)." *Richard III Society*, <https://richardiii.net/richard-iii-his-world/his-family/anne-neville-wife/>. Accessed 29 Sept. 2025.

Website (No Author)

Format:

"Title of Article or Page." *Title of Website*, Date of Publication, DOI or URL (if available). Accessed Date (if there is no date of publication).

Example:

"Department of Interior and Agriculture Announce Wildlife Fire Service Plan to Modernize Federal Wildlife Response." *US Department of the Interior*, 15 Sept. 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/departments-interior-and-agriculture-announce-wildland-fire-service-plan-modernize>.

Works Cited: Sample

Works Cited

Barnfield, Marie. “Lady Anne Neville (Wife).” *Richard III Society*, <https://richardiii.net/richard-iii-his-world/his-family/anne-neville-wife/>. Accessed 29 Sept. 2025.

Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. Vintage, 1991.

“Department of Interior and Agriculture Announce Wildlife Fire Service Plan to Modernize Federal Wildlife Response.” *US Department of the Interior*, 15 Sept. 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/departments-interior-and-agriculture-announce-wildland-fire-service-plan-modernize>.

Krumholz, Sarah, et al. “Cooking with the Curriculum: A Pilot Culinary Medicine Program at the Larner College of Medicine.” *BMC Medical Education*, vol. 25, no. 1, 11 Apr. 2025. *Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12909-025-07103-z>.

Wright, David, and Anthony DiComo. *The Captain: A Memoir*. Dutton, 2020.