

APSU Writing Center

MLA Style 9th Edition

Formatting

- **Margins:** 1 inch margins on all sides of the page.
- **Font:** Times New Roman, 12 pt.
- **Double spaced:** for the content of the paper.
- **Page numbers:** your last name followed by a space with a page number flush top right.
- **Paper Size:** 8.5 x 11-inch paper
- **Paragraphs:** Indent first line of each paragraph one half-inch from the left margin “Tab”.

MLA Style Order

- MLA Header
- Introduction
- Body
- Summary
- *Endnotes if required*
- Works Cited

MLA Header

- **Upper left corner:**
 - Your full name
 - Instructor's name
 - Course
 - Date
- **Double Spaced**

MLA Title

- Double space between the title and the first line of the text.
- Use quotation marks or italics when referring to other works in your title.
 - **Example:** *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* as Morality Play; Human Weariness in "After Apple Picking"

Sample MLA first page:

The diagram illustrates the layout of an MLA first page. At the top left, the student's name "Samson E. Sato" is shown with a red box labeled "Your First and Last Name". Below it is the instructor's name "Dr. David Maxwell" with a red box labeled "Class or Course Name". The course "EDU 200" is shown with a red box labeled "Teacher's Name". The date "25 Feb. 2020" is shown with a red box labeled "Date paper is due". On the right side, the page number "Sato 1" is shown with a red box labeled "Running Head: Last + Name Page #". The title "Piaget's Journey to Understanding the Child's Mind" is shown with a red box labeled "Title of Your Paper". The first line of the paragraph is indented by 1/2 inch, as indicated by a blue arrow and the text "1/2 inch indent". The rest of the paragraph is double-spaced. Blue arrows and text indicate "1-inch margins" on all sides and "Double-spaced, Plain text, Title case" for the main content.

Section Headings

- When dividing an essay into sections, include a number and period followed by a space then the section name.
- Create headings and subheadings as needed, remain consistent throughout your essay.
 - **Heading Example 1:**
 1. Early Writings
 2. The London Years
 3. Traveling the Continent
 4. Final Years
 - **Heading Example 2:**
 - Formatted, unnumbered:
 - **Level 1 Heading: bold, flush left**
 - *Level 2 Heading: italics, flush left*
 - **Level 3 Heading: centered, bold**
 - *Level 4 Heading: centered, italics*
 - Level 5 Heading: underlined, flush left

In-text Citations

- Throughout your MLA Essay you will be asked to provide resources or references to the materials you are quoting. This is created through the use of in-text citations, footnotes, endnotes, works cited pages, and more.
- Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page.
- For Author-Page Style, your in-text citation must include the author's last name and the page number depending on what you are citing. 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.
 - **Example:** Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).
 - **Example:** Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Works Cited Page

- Your Works Cited Page is a **separate page** at the end of your essay. This is a full citation of the materials you are quoting throughout your essay.
- Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page.
- **Title:** Work Cited or Works Cited (centered).
- **Double Spaced:** All citations.
- **Hanging Indent:** Create by indenting the second line (and more) of a citation by half an inch.
 - **Example:**

Work Cited

Garcia, Maria. "Understanding Social Media Trends." *Communication Studies Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2018, pp. 10-25. JSTOR, doi:10.5678/csqr.35.2.10.

APSU Writing Center

MLA Style 9th Edition - Footnotes & Endnotes

Check with your instructor if you are required to implement Footnotes & Endnotes in your MLA Essay.

Footnotes & Endnotes

- Footnotes & Endnotes can be used to amplify certain sections of your essay to allow readers to better understand the context.
- MLA 9th Edition recommends for all notes to be listed on a separate page before the Works Cited titled Note or Notes (centered).
- These can be created in the text by superscript numbers after the period of the sentence.
- Use parentheses around page numbers when page numbers interrupt a sentence or are given at the end of a sentence
- **Double spaced** and listed by the numbers that correspond to the in-text citation.
 - **Example:** Audience members generally responded positively to the racial representation in the musical.¹
 - **Example:** Aaron Burr advises a young Alexander Hamilton to “talk less, smile more” (16).³
- When a **dash** appears in the text, the note appears **before** the dash.
 - **Example:** After finding out about her daughter’s passion for music, Cho⁴—surprised, impressed, and a little confused—purchased a piano and allowed her daughter to take lessons.
 - **Note Example:**

Note

1. See Green, especially 1-7, and also Hinnant, for further description and discussion of the courtship novel. Green considers *Mansfield Park* a courtship novel, including it in a list of such novels in the period 1740-1820 (163–64).

Works Cited

Green, Katherine Sobba. *The Courtship Novel 1740-1820: A Feminized Genre*. UP of Kentucky, 199

APSU Writing Center

MLA Style 9th Edition - Citation Guide

Book by One Author

- **In Text:** (Author Last Name page number).
 - **Example:** (Kirsh).
- **Works Cited:** Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.
 - **Example:** Mantel, Hilary. *Wolf Hall*. Picador, 2010.

Book by Two Authors

- **In Text:** (Author 1's Last Name and Author 2's Last Name Page Number)
 - **Example:** (Garcia and Patel 72).
- **Works Cited:** Last Name, First Name of First Author, and First Name Last Name of Second Author. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Year.
 - **Example:** Garcia, Maria, and Sanjay Patel. *Economics: Principles and Applications*. McGraw-Hill Education, 2019.

Book by an Unknown Author

- **In Text:** (Title of Book Page Number).
 - **Example:** (Encyclopedia of World History 78).
- **Works Cited:** *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.
 - **Example:** *Encyclopedia of World History*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Library Database Articles

- **In Text:** (Author's Last Name Page Number).
 - **Example:** (Garcia 22).
- **Works Cited:** Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article: Subtitle if Any." *Name of Journal*, Volume Number, Issue Number, Date of Publication, First Page Number-Last Page Number. Name of Database, DOI, Permalink or URL.
 - **Example:** Garcia, Maria. "Understanding Social Media Trends." *Communication Studies Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2018, pp. 10-25. JSTOR, doi:10.5678/csqr.35.2.10.

Websites

- **In Text:** (Author Last Name or Title of Website)
 - **Example:** (Mabillard)
- **Works Cited:** Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Website*, Name of Organization Affiliated with the Website, Date of copyright or date last modified/updated, URL. Accessed access date (optional).
 - **Example:** Mabillard, Amanda. *Shakespeare Online*, 29 Dec. 2011, www.shakespeare-online.com. Accessed 6 July 2016.

YouTube

- **In-text:** (Username or Title of the Video).
 - **Example:** (PBS Space Time).
- **Works Cited:** Username or Title of the Video. "Title of the Video." *YouTube*, Uploaded by Name of the Channel, Day Month Year of Upload, URL.
 - **Example:** PBS Space Time. "What If We Detonated a Nuclear Bomb on the Moon?" *YouTube*, Uploaded by PBS Space Time, 4 March 2023, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iap0H5Gi1-4.

APSU Writing Center

MLA Style 9th Edition - Poetry

Short Quotations

- A short quotation is four typed lines or fewer of prose or verse. Provide the author and specific page number or line numbers in the in-text citation.
- Question marks and exclamation points should appear within the quotation marks if they are a part of the quoted passage, but after the parenthetical citation if they are a part of your text.
 - **Example 1:** According to some, dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.
 - **Example 2:** According to Foulkes's study, dreams may express "profound aspects of personality" (184).
- When using short (fewer than three lines of verse) quotations from poetry, mark breaks in verse with a slash, (/), at the end of each line of verse (a space should precede and follow the slash). If a stanza break occurs during the quotation, use a double slash (//).
 - **Example:** Cullen concludes, "Of all the things that happened there / That's all I remember" (11-12).

Long Quotations

- A long quotation includes more than four typed lines of prose or verse. These citations are to be created in a free-standing block of text and omits quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, with the entire quote indented **1/2 inch** from the left margin while maintaining double-spacing. Your parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark. When quoting verse, maintain original line breaks.
 - **Example:**

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)

APSU Writing Center

MLA Style 9th Edition - Poetry

Poetry Long Citations

- Keep formatting as close to the original as possible.
 - **Example:**

In his poem "My Papa's Waltz," Theodore Roethke explores his childhood with his father:

The whiskey on your breath
Could make a small boy dizzy;
But I hung on like death:
Such waltzing was not easy.
We Romped until the pans
Slid from the kitchen shelf;
My mother's countenance
Could not unfrown itself. (qtd. in Shrodes, Finestone, Shugrue 202)

Omitting Words in Quotations

- Use an ellipses (...) in between the words you are omitting in a quotation.
 - **Example:** In an essay on urban legends, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale . . . and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs" (78).
- When omitting one or more full lines of poetry, Space several periods to about the length of a complete line in the poem.
 - **Poetry Example:**

These beauteous forms,
Through a long absence, have not been to me
As is a landscape to a blind man's eye:
.....
Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart;
And passing even into my purer mind,
With tranquil restoration . . . (22-24, 28-30)



APSU Writing Center
MLA Style 9th Edition

Works Cited

This packet is adapted from the information from Purdue Owl and the Modern Language Association.

MLA Handbook. 9th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2021.

MLA Formatting and Style Guide. The Purdue OWL, 2 Aug. 2016,
owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.