

MLA Style: Quick Guide

Students use MLA style in English language and literature studies, foreign language studies, comparative literature, and cultural studies.

MLA – In-Text Citations

This is the **first element** of your citation. It appears (in parentheses) and includes author(s) and page number. You **must include page numbers** in all MLA citations.

Quotes		Block Quotes	
Verse	<p>Vang’s poem commences with “I am a seed / Of the tree of knowledge // I arrived here” (1-3).</p> <p>“I am a seed / Of the tree of knowledge // I arrived here” (Vang 1-3).</p>	Verse	<p>Vang explains the life of a bomblet:</p> <p>To any child’s senses Of beauty and curiosity.</p> <p>When a child finds me, Buried among roots of berries</p> <p>Or wild flowers, And cradles me</p> <p>In her warm hands, My heart melts. (12-18)</p>
Prose	<p>“The first thing he became aware of was the hard black Martian sky as seen through the top of the dome which surrounded Whitehead City” (King 212).</p> <p>King describes Ricky’s movements thus, “Claw hands beat and twisted and danced on the air” (212-213).</p>	Prose	<p>King charts Mark’s musings on how the Jaunt might affect consciousness in the following passage:</p> <p>Your mind can be your best friend; it can keep you amused even when there's nothing to read, nothing to do. But it can turn on you when it's left with no input for too long. It can turn on you, which means that it turns on itself, savages itself, perhaps consumes itself in an unthinkable act of auto cannibalism. (211)</p>

Integrating Quotations

When using quotations, make sure that you are integrating them properly into the flow of your writing. In the disciplines that use MLA style, the artistic quality of your prose is a significant factor in assigning a grade. Clunky or awkward use of quotations hampers your ability to create depth of analysis and hinders the clarity of your writing.

DO NOT DO THIS!

Thoreau says, “I love to be alone. I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude” (13). Thoreau clearly likes to be alone.

DO THIS INSTEAD!

In the opening chapter of Walden, Thoreau explains to his reader the impetus for his foray into the woods. “I love to be alone. I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude” (13), he states; making clear that his motivation comes from his desire for remoteness and introversion.



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MLA – Works Cited Page

This is the **second element** of your citation. It appears after the main body of your paper and includes more detailed information about the works you used in your paper

Works Cited

- Banks, Iain M. *The Player of Games*. New York: Orbit Books, 2008. ← **A book by a single author**
- Radium Girls*. Created by D.W. Gregory, directed by Philip McKee, The Marilyn I. Walker Theatre, 3 Mar. 2017, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON. ← **A live performance of a play**
- Stevens, Wallace. “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird.” *Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*, edited by Robert DiYanni, McGraw-Hill, 2007, pp. 1192-1197. ← **Poem/chapter in an anthology**
- Tarka, Lotte. “Word upon a Word: Parallelism, Meaning, and Emergent Structure in Kalevala-meter Poetry.” *Oral Tradition*, vol. 31, no. 2, 2017, pp. 259-292. doi: 10.12697/jeful.2015.6.1.08. ← **An online source from the web or electronic database with a DOI (digital object identifier)**
- Wagner, Colleen. *The Monument*. Playwrights Canada Press, 1993. ← **A written version of a play**

MLA General Formatting

MLA papers should be written **double-spaced**, using **12 point font** and with **one-inch margins**. Course, instructor, title, and date should be placed at the top-left corner of the first page.

Writingqueen 1

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ENGL 1Q00
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Multitasking: A Desired Skill for Students?

Whether taking notes on a laptop, communicating with partners via social media, or listening to a lecture on a podcast, there is no doubt that technology is playing an increasingly important role in education. Although research has shown that students benefit from multitasking by increasing the number of tasks done (Getmo, 209; Dunn, 91), the dangers of multitasking far outweigh the benefits. A recent study of Canadian undergraduate students found that 80 percent of those surveyed feel their time spent studying is negatively impacted by incoming messages on their smartphones (Dee & Stract, 408). An examination of recent statistics and case studies illustrates that student multitasking is having a negative impact on their study efficiency and academic performance.

Tips and Tricks for MLA

Quotations are used more often in MLA than in other styles given the focus on textual analysis.

Although formal MLA style does not require title pages, always clarify formatting specifics with your instructor if you are unclear about what is expected.

Quotations are always analyzed when used in MLA, instead of being used as stand-alone points.

Titles for full publications are *italicized* and titles for works within a larger publication (journal, anthology, etc.) are in “quotation marks”

Do not use headings in MLA.



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