Modern Language Association (MLA) Style

In MLA, the way we cite is designed to create a conversation with the works we cite. This style is popular in:

- Cultural Studies
- Humanities
- Language
- Literature
- Media Studies

What Should Citing in MLA Look Like?

Across the various citation styles, citing will look different when used in-text. In MLA, your in-text citations will usually follow the (Author Page Number) format for quotes and paraphrases that lack an introduction that uses the author's name. If the quote or paraphrase is introduced by the author's name, your in-text citations will follow the (Page Number) format. Most MLA papers are formatted using double-spacing, so all examples in this handout will be double-spaced.

Quoting

When you quote, you are using the quote because you need the exact language the author used to further your argument. Keep in mind quotes must never stand alone. Quotes require context and an introduction.

Without the Author's Name Introducing the Quote

In Arya Stark's first chapter in *A Game of Thrones*, Arya is battling her desire to be involved in battle practice against the gender norms prescribed for girls from noble families. During needlework with the other young ladies at Winterfell, Arya feels belittled by Septa Mordane due to Arya's lack of proficiency in straight needlework. In this uncomfortable space, Arya drifts into thoughts of her direwolf, Nymeria, who "…loved her, even if no one else did" (Martin 78).

With the Author's Name Introducing the Quote

Arya views Nymeria as her companion in a world in which she does not belong. George R.R. Martin describes Nymeria as loving Arya, "even if no one else did" (78). Martin then furthers this relationship by showing the reader Arya views Nymeria as her protector from those who ridicule her by writing, "Arya would gladly have taken the wolf

with her to needlework. Let Septa Mordane complain about her stitches *then*" (78).

Paraphrasing

When you paraphrase, you are taking someone else's words and summarizing what they said using your own words. By paraphrasing, you are not focused on exact wording of the source author but are using your own interpretation of your sources to bolster your argument.

Without the Author's Name Introducing the Paraphrase

In Arya Stark's first chapter in *A Game of Thrones*, Arya is battling her desire to be involved in battle practice against the prescribed gender norms for girls from noble families. During needlework with the other young ladies at Winterfell, Arya feels belittled by Septa Mordane due to Arya's lack of proficiency in straight needlework. In this uncomfortable space, Arya drifts into thoughts of her direwolf, Nymeria, who Arya feels may be the only being who loves her unconditionally (Martin 78).

With the Author's Name Introducing the Paraphrase

Arya views Nymeria, a direwolf, as her companion in a world in which she does not belong. George R.R. Martin describes Nymeria as loving Arya unconditionally and without judgment for Arya's lack of enthusiasm for and proficiency at activities forced on girls in noble families (78). Martin then furthers this relationship by showing the reader Arya views Nymeria as her protector from those who ridicule her, alluding to Arya knowing Nymeria would attack Septa Mordane for her harsh comments about Arya's crooked needlework (78).

In-Texts Citations with Two Authors

When citing two authors in text, you'll use one of the following formats:

- Using the (First Author's Last Name and Second Author's Last Name Page Number) format:
  - In *Some Sing, Some Cry*, the beginning Betty and Eudora's journey to Charleston is foreshadowed as fruitful move, away from the oppressive site of the Sweet Tamarind plantation, when Betty hears music in her mind and thinks, "*Well, music is not a bad omen*" (Shange and Bayeza 2).

- Using the Authors to introduce a quote with (Page Number) after the quote:
  - In Shange and Bayeza's *Some Sing, Some Cry*, the beginning Betty and Eudora's journey to Charleston is foreshadowed as fruitful move, away from the oppressive site of the Sweet Tamarind plantation, when Betty hears music in her mind and thinks, "*Well, music is not a bad omen*" (2).

In-Text Citations of Publications with Three or More Authors

For publications that have three or more authors, you will use the term "et al." after the first author's last name. The term "et al." means "and others," and takes care of the need to write out several authors. For example:

Audre Lorde expresses her position within feminism through her descriptive poetry (Amir et al. 1112).

Works Cited Page

In MLA, your final page will be "Works Cited." This page is a list of every source you chose to use in your paper. Your sources will be listed alphabetically with a hanging indent. Depending on the source, the citation format will slightly change. Below is a series of examples of the most common types of sources.

Book with a Single Author

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

Martin, George R. R. *A Game of Thrones the Illustrated Edition*. Random House Publishing

Group, 2016.

Book with Two Authors

First Author Last Name, First Author First name and Second Author First and Last

Name. *Book Title*. Publisher, Year Published.

Shange, Ntozake and Ifa Bayeza. *Some Sing, Some Cry*. St. Martin's Press, 2010.

Book with Editor(s)

First Editor's Last Name, First Editor's Last Name, and Second Editor's First and Last

Name (Editor[s]). *Book Title*. Publisher, Year.

Vicuña, Cecilia, and Ernesto Livon Grosman (Editors). *The Oxford Book of Latin*

American Poetry. Oxford University Press, 2009.

Journal Article with One Author
Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Article Title." *Journal Title*, Volume

Number, Issue Number, Abbreviated Month Year, Page Numbers for the Entire

Article, *Journal Title*, DOI or URL if the DOI is not available.

Zibrak, Arielle. "What a Library Means to a Woman: Edith Wharton and the Will to

Collect Books by Sheila Liming. (Review)." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*,

vol. 41, no. 1, Spring 2022, pp 168-171, doi:

https://doi.org/10.1353/tsw.2022.0012.

Journal Article with Two Authors
First Author's Last Name, First Author's First Name, and Second Author's First

and Last Name. "Article Title." *Journal Title*, Volume Number, Issue Number,

Abbreviated Month Year, Page Numbers for the Entire Article, DOI or URL if the

DOI is not available.

Grandinetti, Justin, and Chris Ingraham. "Infrastructures of Flow: Streaming

Media as Elemental Media." *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, vol. 39,

no. 2, December 2002, pp. 92-106, doi: 10.1080/15295036.2021.2015536.

Journal Author with Three Authors

First Author's Last Name, First Author's First Name, et al. "Article Title." *Journal*

Title, Volume Number, Issue Number, Abbreviated Month Year, Page Numbers

for the Entire Article. *Database Title*, DOI or URL if the DOI is not available.

Nordlinger, Rachel, et al. "Sentence Planning and Production in Murrinhpatha, an

Australian 'Free Word Order' Language." *Language*, vol. 98, no. 2, June 2022,

https://muse-jhu-edu.libproxy.library.unt.edu/article/857152.

Web Article with an Author

Author Last Name, Author First Name. "Article Title." *Website Title*, Day Month (Abbreviated)

Year, URL

Evans, Jordan. "A Millennial's Guide to Reading Dickens (If you're struggling)." *Charles*

Dickens Museum, 1 Jul. 2021, https://dickensmuseum.com/blogs/charles-dickens-

museum/a-millennials-guide-to-reading-dickens-if-youre-struggling.

Web Source with No Author

Title of Webpage. Website Publisher, Year of Publication, URL.

Advice from the Editors. Modern Language Association, 2022,

https://style.mla.org/sections/advice-from-the-editors/.

Organization or Company as an Author
Organization/Company Name. *Title of Publication.* Publisher, Year Published.

University of North Texas Writing Center. *Modern Language Association (MLA) Style.*

University of North Texas Writing Center, 2023.

Wikipedia Entry
"Searched Term." *Wikipedia*, Date Last Updated, URL.

"Selena." *Wikipedia*, 13 Jul. 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selena.

Anthology (Entire)
Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. *Anthology Title.* Publisher. Year of

Publication.

Masters, Edgar Lee. *Spoon River Anthology.* Macmillan & Co. 1919.

Anthology (Selection)
Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. "Title of Selection." *Title of Anthology*, edited

by Editor's First and Last Name if applicable, Publisher, Year of Publication, Pages of

Selection.

Masters, Edgar Lee. "Daisy Fraser." *Spoon River Anthology.* Macmillan & Co, 1919, 20.

MLA Style Resources

For further information about MLA and MLA citation, check out these resources:
The UNT Writing Center
Style.MLA.org

Keep in mind websites like CitationGenerator or EasyBib can make citing easy; however, these generators are not perfect, so always double-check their work.

Works Cited

Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *A Pocket Style Manual*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015.
Print.

Martin, George R. R. *A Game of Thrones: The Illustrated Edition*. New York: Random House
Publishing Group, 2016. Print

Shange, Ntozake and Ifa Bayeza. Some Sing, Some Cry. St. Martin's Press, 2010.