Citing Sources in MLA Style

List of Works Cited

The list of works cited contains complete publication information for all the sources you used while writing your paper. The way you present this information will depend on what type of source you are using. See examples below for details.

This list starts on a new page at the end of your paper. The title Works Cited should appear centred at the top of your page in the same font as the rest of your paper.

Organize your entries alphabetically according to the authors’ last names. If an entry takes up more than one line, indent the 2nd and 3rd lines using 1 TAB key. In Word, you could also select the text, and then select Page Layout → Paragraph → Indentation → Special → Hanging. Double space the entire page.

Books


Selections from Books


Journal Articles


Newspaper Articles

Films and Television


**In-Text Citation**

In addition to having a list of Works Cited, you must use in-text citation whenever you mention ideas, facts, words or opinions you found in another source. You need to cite direct quotations (i.e. words copied exactly from the source) as well as summaries and paraphrases.

Unlike the list of works cited, in-text citation only includes two pieces of information: **1)** the last name(s) of the author(s), and **2)** the page number (if you are citing an idea or words that appear on specific pages).

This information can be presented in a number of ways. You can either name the author in the sentence or include the author name in parentheses at the end of the sentence, before the period. If there is no author name for that source, use an abbreviated form of the title.

See examples below.

- e.g. Many of Barbara Gowdy’s characters have bodies that are grotesque, abnormal, or in some way open to the world. For example, in *We So Seldom Look on Love*, Sylvie’s conjoined twin grows out of her abdomen (36).

- e.g. Several writers have commented on the references to architecture in these novels (Formac; Smith; Vallorani). One critic noted that the cities in these books are often “complex metaphors for interior space” (Vallorani 365).

- e.g. The narrator in *Flaubert’s Parrot* warns, “Art is not a brassière” (Barnes 136).

When citing poetry, it may be more helpful to cite line numbers than page numbers. If you do this, use the word “line” the first time you cite so that it is clear what the numbers refer to. If you are quoting three lines of poetry or less, include the quotation as part of your sentence, using forward slashes to show the line breaks. If you are quoting 4 or more lines of poetry, put them into a block quotation. Indent each line using 2 TAB keys. Although you will need to double-space these block quotes, you should otherwise try to maintain the original layout.

Notice that, for block quotations, the citation appears **after** the final punctuation—not before. Prose quotations that are 4 lines or longer should also be formatted as block quotations.

Childhood is a common theme in Tim Bowling’s poetry. In “The Call,” the speaker receives a phone call from “the voice / of my childhood” (line 11-12). The poet later reflects:

- What do we say to our pasts
- as we grow older
- that will not betray them
- with lies, betray them
- with truth? (22-26)