

# MLA Writing Style



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# MLA Writing Style

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Edited by: Julia Johns, Tom Fox, and Ronald Silvia

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For more information please contact by mail

SourceAid, LLC

P.O. Box 430 Osterville, MA 02655

E-mail – [info@SourceAid.com](mailto:info@SourceAid.com)

This guide introduces you to the MLA writing style. SourceAid offers comprehensive citation resources in all of the standard writing styles. Go to [www.SourceAid.com](http://www.SourceAid.com) to start citing sources with speed, accuracy, and understanding.

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## **Modern Language Association (MLA)**

### **What is MLA?**

The Modern Language Association's writing style is the leading means of documentation in the educational and literary world. The current MLA writing manual is the sixth edition. A new manual has been published about once every decade over the approximately fifty years of MLA style's existence.

### **When is MLA used?**

The MLA writing style is often used by writers who are not required to use a particular writing style.

### **How is MLA different?**

The MLA style focuses on citing information about the author of a research source. Who created a source is more significant than when it was published.

### **Works Cited**

#### General Guidelines

1. Center title an inch below the top of the page.
2. Arrange citations in alphabetical order.
3. Double space lines without extra blank lines between the citations.
4. Indent the second line of each citation and each line thereafter.

**Example:**

Last Name Page #

Works Cited

Book Author Last Name, Author First Name. Book Title. ed. Editor First Name Editor Last Name. City Published: Publisher, Year.

Website Author Last Name, Author First Name. Site Title. ed. Editor First Name Last Name. Publication Day Month. Year. Accessed Day Month. Year. <URL Address>.

**In-text citations**

General Guidelines

1. All in-text citations direct the reader to the appropriate source in the Works Cited page at the end of the text.
2. Author last name and page number(s) are typically included in an in-text citation.
3. There is no punctuation between the author last name and the page number(s).
4. Page numbers are listed without the following terms: pages, p., pgs.

Author Cited Within Text

**Format:** [*Author Last Name*] sentence ([*Page Number(s)*]).

**Example:** Susan Corning's research paper about the past, present, and future status of the Environmental Protection Agency shows why protecting the environment is a "global issue" (71).

### Author Not Cited Within Text

**Format:** Sentence ([*Author Last Name*] [*Page Number(s)*]).

**Example:** “The world population is not increasing exponentially” (Smith 99).

## **Footnotes**

### General Guidelines

1. Footnotes are used to specify pages/sections of sources, listed on the Works Cited page, that are relevant to specific statements in the text.
2. Footnotes are also used to provide information that is not essential to the thesis of the text.
3. Statements, for which there is information in the footnotes, are superscripted with a sequential number. The number corresponds with the relevant comment within the footnotes.

### Page Setup

1. Unlike Endnotes (which are located on a separate page), footnotes are located at the bottom of the numbered page on which the superscripted statement appears.
2. The heading of the footnotes page (Notes) is centered in plain text without punctuation or font effects (such as bolding or italicization).
3. Footnotes are numbered with superscripts. One space exists between the superscript and the first word of a footnote.

**Example:**

<sup>1</sup> Birtha Fredericson ...

<sup>2</sup> Carlos Careezma ...

4. Each footnote is single spaced but there is a double space between each footnote.

## **Endnotes**

### General Guidelines

1. Endnotes may be used to specify pages/sections of sources, listed on the Works Cited page, that are relevant to specific statements in the text.
2. Statements, for which there is information in the endnotes, are superscripted with a sequential number. The number corresponds with the relevant comment on the endnotes page.

### Page Setup

1. Endnotes are located on a separate numbered page at the end of the text.
2. The endnotes page succeeds the text body and precedes the Works Cited page.
3. Five spaces are inserted between the left margin and the first line of each endnote.
4. Endnotes are numbered with superscripts. One space exists between the superscript and the first word of an endnote.

### **Example:**

<sup>1</sup> Birtha Fredericson ...

<sup>2</sup> Carlos Careezma ...

5. Endnotes are double spaced.

## **Reference**

Additional information may be found at the Modern Language Association website (<http://www.mla.org/>)