MLA Quick Guide

Resources

Book

The MLA Style Center Website
https://style.mla.org/

Purdue OWL Online Resource for MLA
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03/

In-text Citation

Provide brief parenthetical references matching an entry in a Works Cited list; the author here is Ben Chau and the page number is 123.¹

For a Quote
Chau said, “MLA style is great” (123).
“MLA style is great” (Chau 123).

Sometimes a long passage is needed and here is how to format it:

Set off more than four lines as an indented block without quotation marks. Use a colon at the end of the sentence before the block quote. When the grammatical connection between your words and the quote is very close, use a comma or nothing. Place the parenthetical reference for a prose quotation after the punctuation mark on the last line. (MLA 76-77)

See pages 76-91 of the MLA Handbook for detailed advice on quoting.

For a Paraphrase
Chau praised MLA style (123-25).
The scholarly article praises MLA style (Chau 123-25).

¹ MLA style calls for discretion but does use footnotes or endnotes for bibliographic descriptions offering explanations or referring readers to relevant publications. For more detailed information see The MLA Style Center website or Purdue OWL. Superscript notes are placed at the end of the relevant sentence in your text, like above.

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Works Cited Page

Create a separate page at the end of the paper titled Works Cited centered in normal text on the first line. Entries are listed alphabetically by author’s last name. The list is double spaced. If an entry takes more than one line, the second line is indented one half inch. There are nine categories of information that can be supplied in this recommended order:

Author. Title of Source. Title of Container, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.

Journal article accessed through a database

A book with one author

An e-book with two authors

A website authored by an organization

A page on a website