

MLA Quick Guide
UNC Asheville Writing Center

Often used in literature and other disciplines of the humanities, the Modern Language Association style (MLA) touts its simplicity. In-text citations make it easy to reference scholars and enable others to find your sources. Remember, this is a general guide and the *MLA Handbook* is available in the Writing Center for specific questions.

Quoting in MLA

- If a quote is four lines or less, incorporate it into your existing paragraphs.
- If a quote is more than four lines, set it off in a block quote by indenting the whole quote one-half inch from the left margin. Block quotes are often introduced by a colon (:) and do not need quotation marks. Do not indent the first line of a block quote unless you are quoting more than one paragraph of text.
- Cite quotes and paraphrased information with parenthetical citations.

Citing in MLA

MLA utilizes in-text citations that include the author's last name and the referenced page number or page range. Place the citation after a quote or referenced idea and before the sentence period. For example:

"Again the horn sounded from the tower" (Tolkien 529).

or

Tolkien reported, "Again the horn sounded from the tower" (529).

If there are two authors, put both of their last names in the citation: (Fulton and Pick 124)

If you are using a quote you found in another source, an indirect source, clarify the origin by including *qtd. to* indicate that the quotation or paraphrase was quoted in another source: (qtd. In Marsh 518).

When quoting poetry or verse, cite lines, stanzas, cantos, or other divisions if page numbers are not applicable.

Works Cited

The Works Cited lists all of your cited sources alphabetically and includes the information a fellow researcher would need to find your source.

Create a hanging indent for your Works Cited in Word by highlighting the text, expanding the paragraph style box, and choosing hanging indent from the "Special" drop-down menu.

In MLA Style, any relevant information should be listed in the following order:

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

Example Works Cited

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<http://0-search.proquest.com.wncln.wncln.org/docview/749204965?accountid=8388>.
- Solopova, Elizabeth. "Tolkien and Medieval Literature." *Tolkien at Oxford*, University of Oxford Podcasts, 21 Mar. 2011, <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/tolkien-oxford>.
- Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings*. 2nd ed., Houghton Mifflin, 1965.