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 usually follow the (Page Number).

Quoting

When you use quoting, 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 the gender norms for women from noble families and her own internal desire to be anywhere else. 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 the gender norms for women from noble families and her own internal desire to be anywhere else. 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 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 women 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).

Works Cited

In MLA, your final page will be "Works Cited". This page is a list of all the sources 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:

Publication with a Single Author

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. *Book Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year Published. Publishing Medium.

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

Publication with Two or Three Authors

First Author Last Name, First Author First name. Second Author and Third Author with Names in Normal Order. *Book Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year Published. Publishing Medium.

Lovegood, Luna, Hermione Granger, and Cho Chang. *The Famous Women of Hogwarts*. Hogsmeade: Broomstick Publishing, 2009. Web.

Publication with Four or More Authors

You will cite the authors as: *First Author Last Name, First Author First Name, et al.*

"Et al." means "and others" in Latin. This will take care of writing out multiple author names.

Follow the above examples for the rest of the citation.

Web Source with an Author

Author Last Name, Author First Name. "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume.Issue (Publishing Year): Pages. Publishing Medium. Date of Access in Day Month Abbreviation Year Format.

Melishkevich, Tara. "I Love Texas." *The Best Journal* 100.3 (2019): 5 – 15. Web. 15 Aug. 2019.

Web Source with No Author

"Title of the Piece". *Publisher*. Organization/Company Name, Date in Number Month Abbreviation Year Format. Publishing Medium.

"Writing Center's and Their Methods". *UNT Writing Center*, 12 Jan. 2019. Web.

Organization or Company as an Author

Organization/Company Name. *Title of Publication*. City of Publication: Publisher with Common Abbreviations., Year Published. Medium.

University of North Texas Writing Center. *Modern Language Association (MLA) Style*. Denton: Univ. of N. Tex., 2019. Web.

MLA Style Resources

For further information about MLA and MLA citation, check out these resources:

- The UNT Writing Center
- Style.MLA.org
- Owl.Purdue.edu/Owl/Research_and_Citation/MLA_Style/MLA_Style_Introduction.html

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. *A Writer's Reference*. Boston: 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