

The MLA Method of Citation

I MLA method of citation when the quotes in an essay come from a **single text source**:

To cite correctly using the MLA single-source method, there are three components:

1. Your introductory clause or full sentence
2. The quote you copy from the text
3. The page number of the text where the quote came from or, in the case of a web source, the author's name or a brief title.

When you introduce the quote using an introductory clause, you must put a comma after your clause and before the copied quote:

Example: **Ralph tells Piggy, "Better Piggy than Fatty" (17).**

Introductory clause + comma + quote + (page number)+period

When you introduce the quote using a full sentence, you must put a colon after your full sentence and before the copied quote:

Example: **Piggy reveals his medical condition: "I was the only boy in our school what had asthma" (3).**

Full sentence +colon + quote + (page number)+period

Note that the page number is put inside parentheses and that the period, question mark, or exclamation mark at the end of the quote follows the page number.

Web Source:

When you use a web source, you should always evaluate it to make sure it is a reputable source. Check for a listed author, publisher, or sponsor. You can normally find this information at the bottom of the page or in the "About" section. If you cannot find this information, the source is probably not reliable and should be not be used.

There are two ways to cite web sources, depending on whether or not the source has an author. If a web source does not list an author, there is a strong chance that it is not a useful or reliable source. *You should consult your teacher before using web sources without an author.*

1. If the web source has a clear author, list the author's name as the parenthetical citation.

Example:

A large majority of Wikipedia editors are male, and sometimes the site is "periodically accused of being a boys' club" (Gleick).

2. If the web source does not have a clear author, list the full title (if brief) or a shortened version of the title as the parenthetical citation.

Example:

LFA is an important part of Lake Forest: “Lake Forest Academy, a boarding and day school on the west side of Lake Forest, is considered to be one of the best college preparatory schools and boarding schools in the Midwest” (“Lake Forest”).

II MLA method of citation when the quotes in an essay come from multiple text sources:

When your quotes come from more than one source, you will need to use both in-text citations AND a Works Cited page.

Here is an overview of MLA in-text citations:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

Here is an overview of MLA Works Cited pages:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>

Here is a sample MLA Works Cited page:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/>

Here is a sample of a full paper written in MLA style that features explanations for the choices:

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20091250615234_747.pdf