

MLA FORMAT

ACADEMIC WRITING WORKSHOP SERIES

**Presented by Writing Center Faculty & Staff
Jasmine Boskent & Jalisa Peters**



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WHAT IS MLA FORMAT?

- The MLA (**Modern Language Association**) format is a traditional writing style for academic essays and research papers.
- Many courses, especially English, require the MLA format for writing assignments, highlighting this workshop's importance.
- Although there are several versions of the MLA format the presentation will go over the 9th edition style.
- The presentation will demonstrate **the Paper Formatting, In-Text Citations, and Works Cited pages** in MLA format.
- The MLA format and proper citation of your cited sources ensure a reader knows the following:
 - **The author of the work**
 - **The title of the work**
 - **The works publication/location**
- A reader should be able to find this information when you quote or paraphrase a source (**In-Text Citation**) and in your **Works Cited page** at the end of your paper.



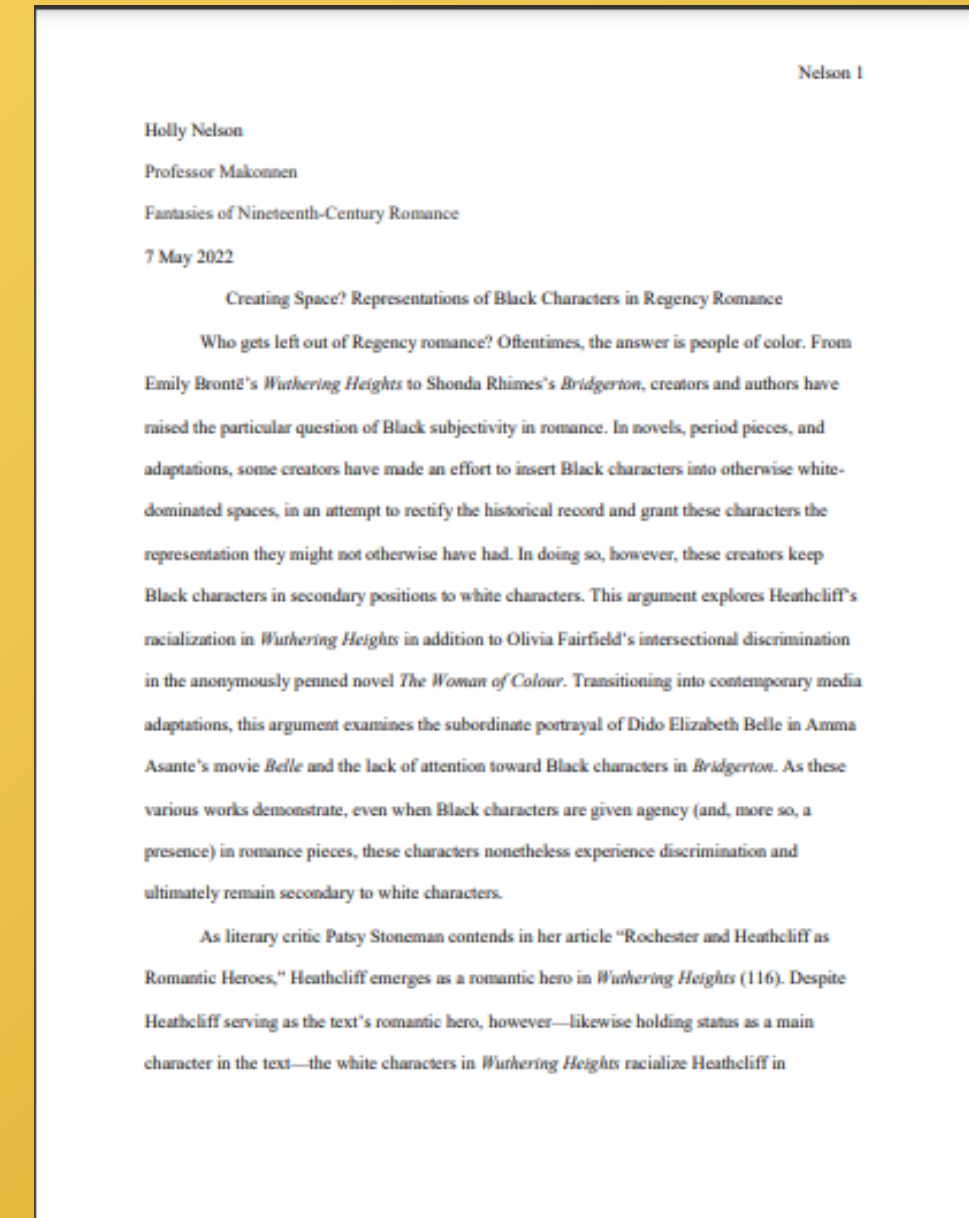
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MLA 9th Edition Guide



PAPER FORMAT

- When formatting your paper according to MLA 9th Edition, please ensure your Word or Google Document paragraph setting is **double-spaced with 1-inch margins**.
- The MLA 9th Edition allows you to use a point size of 11-13 and a readable font. However, you are encouraged to use **the 12pt size with the Times New Roman font**.
- An MLA paper must contain a **running head (a header printed at the top of each page of a piece of writing) that holds your last name and the page number on the upper right-hand corner**.
- The paper must also have a header, which you will place below the running head on the left and have the following information:
 - **Your Name**
 - **Name of Instructor/Professor**
 - **Course Name or ID (Ex. African American Lit. or SENL-240N-01)**
 - **Date**
- Lastly, the title of your paper should be **centered on the following line below your header**.

MLA Style Center Essay Example



IN-TEXT CITATIONS

- An **In-Text or Parenthetical Citation** is used to credit a source when quoting or paraphrasing any source material within an academic essay or research paper.
- In the citation, **the quote is enclosed with quotation marks** following the **author's last name and page number**; **the quote was found enclosed in parenthesis**.
 - **Example:** The article goes on to say that “People don't do derby just for exercise but usually because it becomes a part of who they are” (Fagundes 1098).
- The alternative is a narrative citation, in which you would include the author's name within a sentence before citing the quote, leaving the page number enclosed in parenthesis.
 - **Example:** Fagundes added, “People don't do derby just for exercise but usually because it becomes a part of who they are” (1098).
- Some sources may lack page numbers, in which you may leave the author's last name (**Do not attempt to number the pages or lines independently**). However, you cannot use the alternative in-text citation option.
 - **Example:** The article goes on the say that, “People don't do derby just for exercise but usually because it becomes a part of who they are” (Fagundes).

- There are four types of in-text citation methods that you can use throughout your paper:

- **Direct Quoting**
- **Paraphrasing**
- **Narrative Citations**
- **Parenthetical Citations**

- **Direct Quotes** are in-text citations that **use the exact wording of a source (word for word)**.
- If you use this method, **add the author's last name, the year of the source's publication, and the source's page or paragraph number(s)**. The information will be enclosed in parentheses, each proceeding to the other by a comma.
- Ensure that the direct quote in quotation marks shows ownership to the source's author.

- **Example:** The article goes on to say that “People don't do derby just for exercise but usually because it becomes a part of who they are” (Fagundes 1098).

- **Narrative citations** are used when **the author's name is mentioned in the text.**
- Add the page or paragraph number in parentheses if you want to use this citation method.

- **Example:** According to Lopez, most dogs enjoy “taking walks and eating snacks” (12), but other researchers disagree with this statement.

- **Paraphrasing Citations** is when you interpret a source's information in your own words.
- Using this citation, you must have the author's last name and page or paragraph number in parentheses.

- **Example:** Mother-infant attachment became a leading topic of developmental research following the publication of John Bowlby's studies (Hunt 65).

- **Parenthetical Citations** are used when the author's name is not mentioned in the text.
- Using this citation method, you must add the author's name and and page or paragraph number in parentheses.

- **Example:** Most dogs enjoy “taking walks and eating snacks”(Lopez 12), but other researchers disagree with this statement.

- Some sources may not have a direct author by name. In that case, you will shorten the source title in quotations and enclose it in parentheses with the page number, if there is any.

- **Example:** "Practical Oral Care for People with Intellectual Disability,"
 - (“Practical Oral”) or (“Practical Oral” 43)

- If the work's title is too long, such as a book or website, you will italicize the title; if the work is shorter like an article, you will put in quotation marks and add page numbers if the works include any.

- **Example:** *Women of the North an Exhibition of Art By Inuit Women of the Canadian Arctic Sculptures Drawings Wall Hangings Costumes Dolls*
 - (*Women of the North*) or (*Women of the North* 190)

- The MLA format requires you to italicize titles of books, plays, films, periodicals, databases, and websites. You will italicize these sources regardless if they are in a sentence or citation.
- In addition, you must put articles, essays, chapters, poems, webpages, songs, and speeches in quotations, regardless of whether they are in a sentence or citation.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

- Before citing any source material, briefly overview the piece to display its relevance to your topic or argument.
- Your overview should be **one to two sentences long and include where the source was published (publications should be italicized), the source's title (quotations or italics based on MLA format rules), and its author.**

- **Example:** In *The Insider Magazine* article, “South Asian Creators Explain Why a Trend Among White TikTokers to Give Themselves ‘Henna Freckles’ is so Offensive,” Charissa Cheong discusses the issues of TikTok creators imitating the plant-based dye tattoos and discrediting and ignoring its origins.

- If your source has no direct authors but you know where the source was publicized, you would only include that publication as its author.

- **Example:** *The Insider Magazine* article, “South Asian Creators Explain Why a Trend Among White TikTokers to Give Themselves ‘Henna Freckles’ is so Offensive,” discusses the issues of TikTok creators imitating the plant-based dye tattoos and discrediting and ignoring its origins.

- Once you give a proper overview of a source, you can use it multiple times without having to introduce it again.

- **Example:** The poem is not of traditional structure; it continuously switches from conventional to free verse, adding to its revolutionary defiance. The stanzas even maintain this defiance of form, with some only consisting of one or two lines separating them with parenthesis. For example, “America was never America to me)” (Hughes 5), the sentence is divided by the first stanza, “Let America be America again Let it be the dream it used to be Let it be the pioneer on the plain, Seeking a home where he is free” (Hughes 1-4). The structure shows a voice hidden by the darkness coming to light. Eventually, this voice breaks out of the parenthesis to assimilate a new style demanding attention. Slowly, the poem escapes traditional structure with not only physical form but also its use of rhyme scheme.

- In this poem explication, the poem “Let America Be America Again” by Langston Hughes has an overview in the introduction of the essay and the main topic.
- In addition, you should only give an overview of the new source material in the essay. We encourage you to refer to the [MLA 9th Edition Guidelines](#) if you need clarification on whether your in-text citation is correct.

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BLOCK QUOTATIONS

- **Block of Long Quotations** is for citing quotes that are **four lines or more**.
- When block quoting a source, you must **separate it from the rest of your essay as a new paragraph**.
- In addition, the quote must be **1/2 inch from the left margin, with no quotation marks, and the parenthetical or in-text citation must come after the last punctuation mark**.

- **Example:** He asserts the following:

The story of derby-name emergence probably has more to do with coincidence and path dependence than with conscious design. Derby pioneer Ivanna S. Pankin's classic derby name pre-dated her founding of Arizona Roller Derby in 2003. Rather, it was a handle and email address she used as a musician in Phoenix's punk rock scene. When she publicized her nascent league using the alias Ivanna S. Pankin, and the entire Austin scene was already using skate names, the leagues that popped up in their wake followed suit, and the practice of using colorful nicknames has been used by virtually all derby leagues and skaters since. (Fagundes 1093-1094)

- If your quote is long and you need only a particular section of the piece, you may do a basic in-text citation by cutting off the sections you need with ellipses.

- **Example:** He asserts, “Rather, it was a handle and email address she used as a musician in Phoenix’s punk rock scene. When she publicized her nascent league using the alias Ivanna S. Pankin, and the entire Austin scene was already using skate names...” (Fagundes 1093-1094).

- The same rules apply to the alternative citation method of inserting the author’s last name in a sentence rather than within the citation.

- **Example:** Fagundes asserts the following:

The story of derby-name emergence probably has more to do with coincidence and path dependence than with conscious design. Derby pioneer Ivanna S. Pankin’s classic derby name pre-dated her founding of Arizona Roller Derby in 2003. Rather, it was a handle and email address she used as a musician in Phoenix’s punk rock scene. When she publicized her nascent league using the alias Ivanna S. Pankin, and the entire Austin scene was already using skate names, the leagues that popped up in their wake followed suit, and the practice of using colorful nicknames has been used by virtually all derby leagues and skaters since. (1093-1094)

WORKS CITED PAGE

- The **Works Cited** or **Reference page** is a portion of your paper where you give credit to each source that appears within the text. Any source **NOT** used in the text should not be in the Works Cited Page.
- It should be on a separate page from your paper, with the title **“Works Cited” centered.**
- The entire page should be double-spaced to reflect the essay, with each citation having an **indentation beginning with the second line, followed by 0.5 to create a hanging indentation.**
- Every citation should reflect the following format:
 - Author’s Last, First Name. Title of Source. *Title of Container*, Contributors, Version, Vol. Number, Publisher, Publication Date, Location. Accessed Date.
- Although every source may have different information, you will use all available information. In addition, you may use library resources, such as JSTOR or ESBCO, that provide citations in MLA, APA, and Chicago format.

- You may have a source of one, two, or three authors, multiple authors, or no direct author; your citation will differ depending on these factors.
- If a source only has one author, you would put their last name first following a comma and their first name ending it with a period.

- **Example:** Sheldon, Kathryn. “Brief History of Black Women in the Military.” *The Women’s Memorial*, Women’s Memorial Foundation, 2017, www.womensmemorial.org/history-of-black-women. Accessed 25 June 2024.

- If a source has 2-3 authors, you would add their last and first names following an “and” to add the next author in the same format ending with a period.

- **Example:** Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Allyn and Bacon, 2000. Accessed 14 September 2024.

- If a source has multiple authors, you would add the first author’s last and first name following a comma and add “et al.” (Latin word *et alia*, meaning “and others”).

- **Example:** Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*. Utah State UP, 2004. Accessed 20 July 2024.

- If a source has no author, you will start with the work's title and add any following information.

- **Example:** "How to Teach Yourself Guitar." *eHow*, Demand Media, www.ehow.com/how_5298173_teach-yourself-guitar.html. Accessed 24 June 2016.

- The following examples are citations for **Books, Articles, Music, Movies, Film, Video, Audio, and Images.**

BOOKS

- **Book with One Author:** Mantel, Hilary. *Wolf Hall*. Picador, 2010.
- **Book by an Unknown Author:** *Beowulf*. Translated by Alan Sullivan and Timothy Murphy, edited by Sarah Anderson, Pearson, 2004.
- **An Edited Book:** Sánchez Prado, Ignacio M., editor. *Mexican Literature in Theory*. Bloomsbury, 2018.
- **Book on a Website:** Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Masque of the Red Death." *The Complete Works of Edgar Allen Poe*, edited by James A. Harrison, vol. 4, Thomas Y. Crowell, 1902, pp. 250-58. *HathiTrust Digital Library*, hdl.handle.net/2027/coo.31924079574368.

- **Printed Book:** Bradley, Heather. *Design Funny: A Graphic Designer's Guide to Humor*. 1st ed., *HOW Books*, 2015.
- **An E-Book:** Klausen, Jytte. *The Cartoons That Shook the World*. E-book ed., *Yale University Press*, 2009.
- **Chapter in an Edited Book:** Kang-Brown, Jason, et al. "Zero-Tolerance Policies Do Not Make Schools Safer."
School Safety, edited by Noah Berlatsky, *Greenhaven Press*, 2016, pp. 50-52.

ARTICLES

- **Article on Website:** Deresiewicz, William. "The Death of the Artist—and the Birth of the Creative Entrepreneur."
The Atlantic, 28 Dec. 2014, theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/the-death-of-the-artist-and-the-birth-of-the-creative-entrepreneur/383497/.
- **Article on Library Database:** Begley, Sharon. "Could This Be the End of Cancer?" *Newsweek*, vol. 158, no. 25, 19 Dec. 2011, pp. 36-39. *EbscoHost*, search.ebscohost.com.
- **Article from Newspaper Website:** Hallett, Vicky. "Prancercise: Fitness through Self-Expression." *News & Observer*, 24 Sept. 2013, www.newsobserver.com/living/article10279586.html.

MUSIC

- **Song from an Album:** Sheeran, Ed. "Eraser." *Divide*. Atlantic Records, 2017. Apple Music.
- **Song on a Website:** Snail Mail. "Thinning." *Bandcamp*, snailmailbaltimore.bandcamp.com.
- **Concert Attended In-person:** Beyoncé. "The Formation World Tour." 14 May 2016, Rose Bowl, Los Angeles.
- **Music Video on Website:** Beyoncé. "Beyoncé - Formation (Official Video)." YouTube, 9 Dec. 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDZJPJV__bQ

FILM, VIDEO & AUDIO

- **A Movie Seen In-Person:** *Inside Out 2*. Directed by Kelsey Mann, Pixar, 2024.
- **A Movie Viewed Online:** Richardson, Tony, director. *Sanctuary*. Screenplay by James Poe, Twentieth Century Fox, 1961. *YouTube*, uploaded by LostCinemaChannel, 17 July 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMnzFM_Sq8s.
- **A TV Show Viewed In-person:** "Hush." 1999. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Complete Fourth Season*, created by Joss Whedon, episode 10, Mutant Enemy / Twentieth Century Fox, 2003, disc 3. DVD.

- **Youtube Videos:** American Heart Association. “Heart Failure Warning Signs and Symptoms.” *YouTube*, 7 Jan. 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=52eMwhf8UfI.
- **TED Talks:** Allende, Isabel. “Tales of Passion.” *TED*, Mar. 2007, www.ted.com/talks/isabel_allende_tells_tales_of_passion
- **Podcast Episodes:** Vogt, P. J., and Alex Goldman, hosts. “On the Inside.” Reply All, episode 64, Gimlet, 12 May 2016, gimletmedia.com/shows/reply-all/brho4v/64-on-the-inside.
- **Interviews:** Rodrigo, Olivia. Personal interview with the author. 10 Aug. 2023.
- **Social Media Post:** Hamilton Videos [@hamilton.vods]. “Video of King George in *Hamilton*.” *Instagram*, 5 July 2020, www.instagram.com/p/CCPEUJLDz0l/.

IMAGES

- **A Photograph Viewed In-person:** Cameron, Julia Margaret. “Alfred, Lord Tennyson.” 1866, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.
- **A Painting Viewed Online:** Bearden, Romare. *The Train*. 1975. MOMA, www.moma.org/collection/works/65232?locale=en.
- **An Untitled Image from a Print Magazine:** Karasik, Paul. *Cartoon*. *The New Yorker*, 14 Apr. 2008, p. 49
- To view further Work Cited MLA Citation Examples, refer to the [MLA 9th Edition Guidelines](#), [Writing Center MLA webpage](#), or the [MLA 9th Edition Handbook](#).

- Many of you will use scholarly journal articles online with a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) URL.

- These journal articles will be cited in the following MLA format:

- Author Last, First Name. “Title of Article: Subtitle of Article.” *Journal Title*, Vol. Number, Issue Number, Year, Page Number(s). DOI/URL. Accessed Date.

- In addition, you need to include the “**https://**” in the URL within the location portion of the citation if it is available.

- **Example:** Barlow, David H., and Katherine Ann Kennedy. "New Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment in Anxiety and Related Emotional Disorders: A Focus on Temperament." *Canadian Psychology*, vol. 57, no. 1, 2016, pp. 8-20. *ProQuest*, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/cap0000039>. Accessed 15 November 2023.

- If there is no DOI, you would have a permalink or a short permanent URL and remove the “**https://**.”

- **Example:** Curthoys, Ann. “The Magic of History: Harry Potter and Historical Consciousness.” *Agora*, vol. 49, no. 4, 2014, pp. 23-31. *EbscoHost*, search.ebscohost.com. Accessed 12 May 2023.

- If the citation does not have DOI or permalink, you will use whatever URL is available.
- In addition, if the URL is from a library database, you can shorten it by only including everything after the forward slash “/” and remove the “https://.”
 - **Example:** Stein, Marc. "Theoretical Politics, Local Communities: The Making of US LGBT Historiography." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, vol. 11, no. 4, 2005, pp. 605-625, www.robmacdougall.org/9817/files/2011/09/Stein-2005-LGBT-Historiography.pdf. Accessed 14 April 2022.
- If you are unsure how to cite a scholarly journal with a DOI, refer to the [MLA 9th Edition Guidelines](#) or the [MLA 9th Edition Handbook](#) for further instructions.
- The [Writing Center webpage](#) on the Southern University at New Orleans website has the [MLA Guidelines](#), and this presentation is available for you to use.
- Although there are AI generators for citing sources, it can only access the information you input. In other words, you will still need to research and cite your sources properly.
- Southern University at New Orleans has a **No Plagiarism Policy** on page 10 of the [SUNO Student Code of Conduct](#) that we would like you to review for future assignments.

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Boskent, Jasmine. “TikTok Trendsetters V.S. Culture Preservation.” Skincare Anarchy [on *Medium*], 2 August 2022, <https://medium.com/@skincareanarchy/tik-tok-trendsetters-v-s-culture-preservation-4d7e7a9cb9e9>. (Accessed 25 July 2024).

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